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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 352

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19, 2008

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## OPINION METER

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**80** without a government budget for FY 2009  
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INSIDE



## Curious Ben

In "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," time doesn't just slip away. It surges like a tsunami.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 26

'Drop lawsuit, restore good relations with feds' PAGE 3  
11 students graduate from Loyola UNIVERSITY. PAGE 13

EXCEPT FOR LIFE-OR-DEATH SITUATIONS

## Tinian clinic turning away patients

By KRISTI EATON  
[kristi\\_eaton@saipantribune.com](mailto:kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Without a doctor and its physician assistants not authorized to prescribe drugs, the Tinian Health Center is now forced to treat only those patients in life-or-death situations and is turning away all other patients.

This came about after the Medical Licensing Board failed to come to an agreement with Tinian Health Center's physician assistant Terri Clawson on a system relating to the prescription of drugs, including narcotics, to treat the island's patients.

The situation, according to the THC acting director, has forced the medical

See TINIAN on Page 4



## NEW WIC CLINIC

Gov. Benigno Fitial, Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela and Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez cut the ribbon at the opening of the new Women, Infants and Children Clinic on Navy Hill yesterday.

KRISTI EATON

## India firm offers \$60M to solve power crisis

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Ras Tek Group, a major energy company operating in India, presented the Fitial

administration and the Legislature yesterday with an investment offer worth over \$60 million to solve the CNMI's power crisis.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, some Cabinet

members, lawmakers led by Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios listened to the closed-door presentation of Ras Tek Group of

See INDIA on Page 4

## Ex-judge is sanctioned, told to take, pass exam

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
[n\\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com](mailto:n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court on Wednesday sanctioned former Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama after it found clear and convincing evidence of violations of the Rules of Judicial Conduct.

In a nine-page slip opinion penned by Chief Justice



Lizama

Miguel S. Demapan, the High Court said the most appropriate sanctions against Lizama are continuing legal education and assessment of costs

See EX-JUDGE on Page 4

## 'Eliminate all poker arcades by June 2009'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council wants all poker machines, except those in licensed casinos, eliminated from the Commonwealth by June 30, 2009.

In a resolution adopted Tuesday, SEDC co-chairs Robert Jones and Marian Aldan-Pierce and assistant co-chair

See ELIMINATE on Page 4



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# Local

## ASC not affected by Madoff investment scandal

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

ASC Trust Corp. did not invest

in the \$50-billion Ponzi scheme allegedly ran by former Nasdaq chair Bernard Madoff, which prosecutors say has left inves-

tors around the world in financial ruin.

The company's president, David J. John, in an e-mail to

the *Saipan Tribune*, said that ASC was fortunately not part of the Ponzi scheme.

"ASC was not directly affect-

ed by the Madoff situation. None of our clients, or any of the funds in the region that we are aware of, had any money invested with the fund. But what I [see with] the situation at hand definitely supports the importance of due diligence and strong audit support for any institution you are going to entrust your money with," he said.

ASC is a leader in retirement plan consulting services in the Asia Pacific Region. Founded in 1990, it currently manages over \$150 million in assets.

The assets of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC were frozen Friday in a deal with federal regulators and a receiver was appointed to manage the firm's financial affairs.

According to the Associated Pres, among the more prominent names in the U.S. said to have plunked down their money in the hedge fund include Philadelphia Eagles owner Norman Braman, New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon, and J. Ezra Merkin, the chairman of GMAC Financial Services.

Beyond U.S. hedge funds, more corporate names disclosed exposure to Madoff. Late Sunday, some of Europe's biggest banks acknowledged they, too, were exposed to Madoff's investment

fund. Switzerland's Reichmuth & Co. said the private bank has \$327 million at risk. French bank BNP Paribas estimated its exposure Madoff's fund could lead to 350 million euros (\$467 million) in losses. Spain's Grupo Santander SA, Europe's second-largest banking consortium, said its clients had an exposure of 2.33 billion euros (\$3.1 billion) to Madoff's investment funds, mostly through the Optimal Strategic US Equity fund, according to reports.

A Ponzi scheme is a fraudulent investment operation that involves paying abnormally high returns to investors out of the money paid in by subsequent investors, rather than from the profit from any real business.

The scheme usually offers abnormally high short-term returns in order to entice new investors. The perpetuation of the high returns that a Ponzi scheme advertises (and pays) requires an ever-increasing flow of money from investors in order to keep the scheme going.

It is named after Charles Ponzi. The term "Ponzi scheme" is used primarily in the United States, while other English-speaking countries do not distinguish in colloquial speech between this scheme and other forms of pyramid schemes.



John

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# 'Drop lawsuit, restore good relations with feds'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Christina Sablan urged Gov. Benigno Fitial yesterday to drop his lawsuit against federalization and instead restore the CNMI's good relations with federal agencies.

"It [lawsuit] doesn't do service to the community at this point. I think it is time to just say, 'Okay, the likelihood of us prevailing on the merits of the CNMI's lawsuit are very, very slim,'" said Sablan in an interview.

The congresswoman said the best thing to do would be to drop the lawsuit, then see if the CNMI can restore relations with federal agencies and begin participating in the drafting of the regulations before it is too late.

"It is no secret, I thought the lawsuit should have never been filed in the first place," she said.

Sablan is not holding much hope that Fitial would listen. "At this stage, it doesn't sound that the governor is going to be willing to drop the lawsuit. It does seem that there will be a response and then we will see how the federal court will rule," she said.

Sablan said people have already seen the consequences of this lawsuit. "It has severely hindered our ability to communicate and negotiate with the federal agency that does this immigration regulations being drafted," she said.

With respect to the Open Government Act that she requested to get information on public funds used for the lawsuit, the lawmaker said acting Attorney General Gregory Baka had declined to provide the information in response to an earlier request to Fitial.



Sablan

Baka, however, provided her an account number, described as the governor's operational account, from which the acting AG acknowledged that public funds had been drawn in order to pay for expenses related to the lawsuit.

Sablan said she made a follow-up request to Finance Secretary Eloy Inos on Dec. 11. The Secretary has 10 days to

respond pursuant to the Open Government Act.

She said she had just spoke yesterday with Inos who stated they were preparing a response to her request.

"I do think that the people deserve to know how their taxpayers' dollars are being spent. The only recourse at this point if I get another rejection is to go to court and I do intend to do so," the lawmaker stressed.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the CNMI's lawyers will review the U.S. government's motion to dismiss and will file a response by the court's deadline.

Reyes said that, contrary to the arguments raised by the U.S. government's motion, they believe that the provisions of the federalization law will have serious adverse consequences for the economy and citizens of the CNMI.

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## EX-JUDGE

From Page 1

and expense.

Demapan said that before Lizama resumes practicing law, if he chooses to do so, he must take the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination and achieve a passing score. He must also reimburse the Judiciary for the costs of his disciplinary action.

Demapan said the High Court does not wish to minimize Lizama's transgressions, but it does not also believe that he is unfit to serve on the bench or as a practicing attorney.

"Now that this court has in-

formed him of his errors, Lizama should be allowed to continue to serve the Commonwealth in whatever way he so chooses," Demapan noted.

Based on these and several other reasons, the High Court approved the findings of the investigative judge and the special ethics prosecutor.

Lizama retired from the bench in May 2008 to run for congressional delegate. He lost to Gregorio Sablan.

Earlier, on April 10, 2007, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sent the chief justice a letter regarding alleged judicial misconduct, which the High Court treated as a disciplinary

complaint, initiating the proceedings. Richard H. Benson was appointed pro tem as an investigative judge.

The complaint was based on Lizama's July 17, 2006, letter to Naraja, alleging misconduct by Judge David A. Wiseman; and Lizama's March 28, 2007, letter to Naraja alleging more misconduct by Wiseman.

Lizama's 2006 letter, according to the High Court's slip opinion, stated that because comments by Wiseman indicated bias, he should be replaced and another judge assigned to decide a motion in the Malite case.

The High Court noted that when Lizama was asked at a

May 24, 2007, hearing what evidence led him to believe that Wiseman was biased, he admitted it was based on hearsay, suspicion and surmise.

The High Court found no evidence that Wiseman violated Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure.

The High Court said the imposition of judicial sanctions is a matter of first impression for the Supreme Court and that Lizama is still a jurist subject to the Canons of Judicial Conduct.

"Even if Lizama felt Wiseman was biased, these communications undermine the fundamental tenet that the disqualifying motion judge decides

the matter, not the judge being considered for disqualification," the SC said.

The High Court also said it must protect against the appearance of impropriety in order to instill public confidence because judges who covet publicity, or convey the appearance that they do, lead any objective observer to wonder whether their judgments are being influenced by the prospect of favorable coverage in the media.

The special ethics prosecutor also avers that Lizama violated the Canon Law, which states that a judge should participate in establishing, maintaining and

enforcing and should himself observe, high standards of conduct so the integrity and independence of the judiciary may be preserved.

Demapan said that Lizama's motives in disseminating the letters may have been proper but his methods were not.

"In the process of maintaining the transparency of the judicial system, Lizama departed from the requirements of the Judicial Code," Demapan said adding that the High Court does not tolerate such behavior.

This is because, the chief justice said, if judges do not follow the rules, "how can we expect the public to do so?"

## ELIMINATE

From Page 1

Teresa K. Kim urged Gov. Benigno Fitial and legislators to work collaboratively to enact laws that will eliminate all poker machines, except inside

licensed casinos.

SEDC cited the increasing poker addiction in the CNMI as reason for the phase out, saying that gambling not only affects the gambler but also his or her family members and other residents, often in the form of crimes and loss of jobs.

There are 791 poker machines in the CNMI; 680 on Saipan, 52 on Tinian and 59 on Rota.

SEDC said the health and safety of Commonwealth residents are more important than the loss of revenue from poker license fees and taxes.

Poker arcades have also been

repeatedly targeted for armed robberies. In March and July 2008, two poker robbery cases occurred on Saipan.

The Council noted that CNMI "has been and continues to experience the worst economic decline with no immediate relief in sight."

"Criminal activity and loss of jobs resulting from poker further deteriorates the family unit in this declining economic climate through domestic violence incidents, including but not limited to child abuse, spousal abuse, and child neglect," the Council co-chairs stated in the resolution.

The prevalence of poker arcades in island villages, SEDC said, often works to adversely impact the personal finances of many families and households, increasing debt levels and compromising the ability to pay debts and meet basic expenses and necessities.

## INDIA

From Page 1

ficials and representatives in the governor's conference room.

Ras Tek officials were not available for interview after the presentation.

Headquartered at Navi Mumbai with branches and service stations in Delhi and Chennai in India, Ras Tek Group specializes in diesel/gas engine-based power plants and the marine industry.

Rep. Victor Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* that Ras Tek Group presented their plans to

help the Commonwealth resolve its power crisis.

"We are concerned about the affordability of the power rate for every paying customer. And this is one company that comes in and is trying to offer us a BOT [Build, Operate, Transfer] concept. But we have a law that is already in place to privatize the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.," said Hocog, who chairs the House's Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication Committee.

The congressman said it all depends whether they can come to an agreement on the affordability and the reliability of the

company's power generation.

Hocog disclosed that Ras Tek is offering non-fuel costs of 9.5 cents per kilowatt-hour.

"But with the fuel costs, it will definitely rise up to probably 17.6 cents. They will [also] have to comply with EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] standards of providing power under the Clean Air Act and that would probably add a couple more cents to the rate," he said.

Hocog said under the proposal, the CNMI government will bear no cost to install the power engines other than a commitment to a 25-year con-

tract agreement.

"I believe that fuel will be provided again by the government, and I'm not too keen on that kind of concept," he said.

Ras Tek, he said, proposes to build or replace the engines at Power Plant 1 and immediately provide by September 2009 the 46 megawatts needed to power the entire island of Saipan, replacing the Aggreko generators and its possible contract renewal.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said that Fitial obviously wants everybody on board as he is not just going to arbitrarily decide on his own what is in the best interest

of the Commonwealth.

"He [Fitial] wants to get a consensus. That's why he's trying to build a consensus as to what we are going to do and what's the best option in terms of the energy crisis right now," Reyes said.

The Ras Tek proposal, he said, seems to be a very promising option because the company is one of the largest, if not the largest, conglomerate in India.

"India has highly skilled technical, professional people. They are very credible and they are certainly very well capitalized. And so the governor feels we're very fortunate that they are interested

in such a small island community with limited power generation capacity," Reyes said.

Rep. Christina Sablan said she believes it might be premature at this point to accept any proposals and sign any deals.

"It is a proposal worth considering. But I do think that we should absolutely do our own diligence to ensure that we are getting the best deal for the people," Sablan said.

"I don't think that we should be jumping to sign any contract at this point. I think we have to really make sure we do our homework," she added.

## TINIAN

From Page 1

providers to act under the Good Samaritan law in order to give patients the necessary treatment. This means that the clinic can only treat patients with life-or-death problems. All other patients will be turned away until a solution can be found.

Since July, when Dr. Ronaldo Toledo left the center, the Medical Licensing Board has issued emergency orders allowing THC physician assistant Terri Clawson to prescribe drugs, including narcotics, with remote supervision by a Saipan doctor.

On Tuesday, members of the board met with Clawson and Clawson's new supervising phy-

sician, Dr. Shirish Balachandra of the Commonwealth Health Center, to discuss concerns about remote supervision.

The board had expressed concern about the high volume of narcotic drugs Clawson had prescribed under the supervision of Dr. Christine Brown. The board created a new order with strict guidelines for Clawson and Balachandra to follow.

But, according to THC acting director Freddy Hofschneider, the order was not seen as workable.

"[The order] was not a workable order to Dr. Balachandra as a supervising physician, as well as the PAs [physician assistants] on Tinian," he said. "And that's because it was so restrictive to the point that Dr. Balachandra might as well just pack his bag

and sit here at Tinian Health Center."

Balachandra could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The order included the agreement that Clawson would send daily e-mails to Balachandra about controlled substances; Balachandra must review monthly a database of chronic or long-term medicated patients; Balachandra must review and sign chart notes; and Balachandra must closely monitor pain contracts.

The order stated that Clawson was not to prescribe schedule II drugs—drugs with a high potential for abuse such as morphine or oxycodone—unless it was a "bona fide medical emergency," and in such situations, Balachandra was to countersign the chart

within 24 hours. A practice agreement was to define "bona fide medical emergency."

For schedule III through V medications, which have less potential for abuse, Clawson was to exchange daily e-mails with Balachandra and seek approval before starting chronic or long-term medication.

Clawson also was to provide the board with her Drug Enforcement Agency number and certificate. Physician assistants who prescribe controlled substances are required to have a DEA number.

Clawson, at Tuesday's meeting, said the chronic and long-term patients she was treating were all inherited cases.

For now, Clawson and medic Juan Pangelinan are working

under the Good Samaritan law to treat patients in life-or-death situations, Hofschneider said. On Wednesday night, two patients were sent to the THC in an ambulance. The first did not require any medications, he said, but the second was in an automobile accident.

"The second patient, about 45 minutes later, a victim of an auto accident [came in] and fortunately, there were no injuries to the body, but there was some treatment required and that's when PA Clawson declared a Good Samaritan law and she treated the patient," Hofschneider said.

Hofschneider said he has communicated with the Secretary of Public Health and the Governor about the situation and the effort

to find a workable solution.

The situation has been tiring, he said.

"I'm not just stressed now. I'm drained," Hofschneider said, but added that he understands where the board members are coming from.

"We have to respect the Health Care Professional Licensing Board," he said. "Remember they also have to protect their own integrity and their own license. They have to exercise the necessary steps to protect themselves."

The Medical Licensing Board is doing their best to look after the well-being of the people of the Commonwealth, a member of the board said yesterday.

In October, 1,176 patients sought treatment at the Tinian Health Center.

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## Wushin introduces reusable LPG canisters

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Wushin Corp. is doing its share to help save the environment with its introduction of refillable canisters for liquefied petroleum gas.

Since its arrival on the island in the middle of this year, sales of the company's refillable LPG canisters have been on the rise, according to Wushin operations supervisor Jun Patawaran.

He said they average around 100 refills a day since operation started in August.

While customers initially need to shell out \$1 for each refillable LPG canister, refilling it is only a fraction of the cost at \$0.65 per pop.

And canister users don't need to drive to the company's Lower Base location each time they need a refill, as full refillable LPG canisters can be purchased in five retail stores around the island—Happy Market in As Lito and Lower Navy Hill, Dolphin Wholesale in San Jose, Alpex Showroom in Chalan Laolao, and Highway Express Shell Gas Station along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Wushin's refillable LPG canisters also produce a more powerful blue flame than its counterparts in the market. It

also has a longer burning time, which is approximately an hour and 35 minutes, according to Patawaran.

Aside from the obvious cost savings, Patawaran said customers should also be happy to know that using the company's refillable LPG canisters helps reduce the accumulation of trash in the islands' limited dumpsites.

He said traditional butane canisters are not reusable, unlike his company's refillable LPG canisters, which their mother company in South Korea said can last virtually for decades.

Patawaran, however, said that their refillable LPG canisters cannot work with just any ordinary portable gas ranges and customers need to bring them in for modifications.

The modifications are for free and lasts only a few minutes. But he said they are only able to modify relatively new and functioning well burners; old and rickety ones will be harder to fix.

Wushin was established in 1981 and its first LPG facility was built in As Lito. It moved to Puerto Rico in 1996.

For more information about Wushin and its new refillable LPG canisters, call 322-7415 or 322-8733.

## Accountant's motion to dismiss deportation denied

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Based on rulings that deportation proceedings are governed by the current CNMI entry and deportation laws, at least until June 2009, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman denied on Wednesday an accountant's motion to dismiss the petition to deport her in connection with a theft cases filed against her three years ago by the Attorney General's Office and Division of Immigration.

Wiseman stated that Marissa P. Mejia may be deported because she has been convicted of two felonies.

Wiseman also noted that the CNMI is not subject to U.S. fed-

eral immigration laws, therefore Mejia's inability to pay restitution is inconsequential to her status as a deportable alien.

The respondent's motion for relief and dismissal was heard on Dec. 4, 2008. Assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell represented the government while Stephen Woodruff appeared on behalf of Mejia.

Mejia, a Philippine national, was charged with 63 counts of theft by deception on January 2005. On September of the same year, she entered a plea agreement, pleading guilty to two felonies.

As a result, Mejia was sentenced to two years imprisonment with the entire sentence suspended and she was placed on probation for two years.

She was required to pay restitution of \$16,287.93. However, she could only pay a total of \$190 to date, according to court records.

Wiseman noted in his five-page order that in October 2007, the victim of this case submitted a letter to the Office of Adult Probation expressing her feelings about the defendant's failure to pay restitution.

The victim appealed to the court to sentence Mejia to serve time in prison.

Mejia has never been incarcerated despite failures to pay fines and restitution.

Court records state that the defendant has a three-year old daughter, who is a U.S. citizen and has a serious liver disease, which required surgery when

she was born.

The daughter has been under the care of CNMI doctors since birth because she had to undergo serious treatment.

On Oct. 13, 2008, Mejia asked the court to grant her motion for relief from deportation and dismissal of the case on two grounds.

She argued that the court should exercise discretion and decline her deportation due to hardship as permitted by the U.S. federal immigration laws.

She also argued that she has not made restitution to the victims so if she would leave the CNMI she would only further frustrate her duty to her victims.

The OAG opposed the motion.



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# 17 Saipan reserve soldiers complete lifesaver course



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Army Reserve soldiers of Detachment 1, 302nd Quartermaster Company pose after graduating from the Army Combat Lifesaver Course on Sunday.

Seventeen Saipan U.S. Army Reserve soldiers of Detachment 1, 302nd Quartermaster Company, graduated from the Army Combat Lifesaver Course on Sunday, Dec. 14, with Specialist Tiffany Palacios Tudela emerging as the course honor graduate.

The training, held at the Saipan U.S. Army Reserve Center, was conducted by the Guam-based 4960th Multifunctional Training Brigade, with SSgt. John C. Borja, and Sgt. Matthew Angoco serving as instructors.

The course consisted of approximately 34 hours of instruction and practical application, conducted on Friday, Dec 12, Saturday, Dec 13, and Sunday, Dec 14.

The course included the following subjects:

- Treatment of penetrating chest trauma
- Decompression of a tension

pneumothorax (a sucking chest wound)

- Initiating a saline lock and intravenous infusion
- Performance of tactical combat casualty care
- Controlling bleeding
- Initiation of a field medical card

- Evacuation of casualties
- Evaluating a casualty

All phases included practical exercises, where the soldiers were required to demonstrate techniques learned. All agreed that the most challenging exercise they faced was the requirement to successfully insert an IV (intravenous) needle into a classmate's vein, install a catheter on that vein, and then attach a saline lock, and IV drip to the catheter.

Besides Tudela, the other graduates of the course were:

- Private First Class Aloysius

K. Atalig

- Specialist Mollie N. Atinson
- Sergeant Jonas M. Barcinas
- Private Michael Richer Berbes
- Specialist Alvin Jesse Y. Borja
- Specialist Rosa Jean Camacho
- Specialist Shuai Chen
- Sergeant Elden Dela Cruz
- Private First Class Roland Dowai
- Private first Class Jordan Jucutan
- Specialist George T. Lieto
- Chief Warrant Officer Ronald H. Mandell
- Specialist Charles Nicholas
- Specialist Jack Anthony L. Pangelinan
- Specialist Ricardo Segotier Quichocho
- Private First Class Noel E. Santos (PR)

## Man sentenced to 20 days in prison for assault and battery

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A 40-year old man who was found guilty of assault and battery, mischief, and disturbing the peace arising from an incident that happened almost two years ago will spend 20 days in prison, pay a \$300 fine and do community service.

In a four-page order issued Wednesday, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said that for the two counts of assault and battery, Donald Kileleman be imprisoned for a period of one year on each count, all suspended, except for 20 days to serve on each count and probation to serve for two years on both counts.

The sentences will run concurrently, which means they will be served at the same time.

The order also stated that Kileleman will pay \$100 on each count of assault and battery and a fine of \$50 for criminal mischief. Kileleman was also sentenced to six months for disturbing peace but this was suspended.

However, the sentence is subject to several terms and conditions, including two

years on probation.

Kileleman was ordered to stay away and told not to make altercations with the victim and her family for the duration of his probation period unless some form of mediation process is conducted to reconcile the defendant with the victim and her family.

Court information stated that the defendant struck, beat or wounded and punched several times a neighbors and close relatives Adoracion Kileleman Hix, his aunt, and Nola Kileleman Hix, his cousin, during the incident.

The defendant also threatened Mrs. Hix with a flower vase.

For the third condition, the defendant should report to the Community Guidance Center for an initial evaluation and undergo anger management counseling.

He should also perform 75 hours of community work service at a minimum rate of 10 hours per month, refrain from possession and consumption of alcohol beverages for the duration of his probation, and pay restitution to the victim for property damages and medical bills incurred by the victim.

## Accreditation site visits set

Officials from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges will be in the CNMI in February, March and April to visit and review at least five schools.

Site visits, which last at least one day, for the following schools have been scheduled for:

- Dandan Elementary: Feb. 23, 2009
- Tinian Elementary: March 30, 2009
- Tinian High School and Junior High School: April 1, 2009
- Rota High School: March 24, 2009
- Saipan Southern High School: Feb. 26, 2009

Four other schools—WS Reyes Elementary, San Antonio Elementary, Koblerville Elementary and Kagman High School—have not yet been scheduled but will probably be around the same time, said Steve Smith, WASC coordinator for the Public School System. The schools will most likely find out their accreditation status in the summer.

Smith said PSS is very confident all of the schools will do well. "Our school leaders are doing what they're supposed to do. Our staff is doing what they're supposed to do," he said.

In October, WASC associate executive director Marilyn George came to the CNMI to conduct a workshop for school leaders as they prepare for accreditation evaluations. (Kristi Eaton)

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# Kilili opens applications for Naval Academy

Delegate-elect Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan is encouraging young men and women from the CNMI to apply to the U.S. Naval Academy. There is one slot open for the Northern Marianas. But act fast—deadline is Jan. 15.

"Attending the Naval Academy is a wonderful opportunity

Academy then makes the final selection for the one position open to the Northern Marianas. The student will begin his or her education in the fall of 2009.

To begin the application process, go to the Naval Academy website: <http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/steps.htm>. Applicants should also

submit a letter of request to Sablan by Jan. 15, 2009. Letters of request

## ON THE NET

Naval Academy website:  
<http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/steps.htm>

for anyone who wants to serve their country and receive a top notch education," said Sablan. "I am looking forward to nominating committed young people who will do the Northern Marianas and our county proud."

The NMI Delegate can select up to 10 nominees. The Naval

may be mailed to Sablan at either P.O. Box 500379, Saipan MP 96950 or 423 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.

Only U.S. citizens and legal residents of the NMI are eligible for nomination. They must be at least 17 years old and not older



Sablan

than 23 by July 1 of the year of entry to the academy. High school graduation is required. The complete application requires a student essay and SAT or ACT test scores.

"It is not an easy process,"

said Sablan. "But we have had a number of NMI students successfully apply and graduate from the US military academies. I know we have the talent."

At the Naval Academy, located in Annapolis, Maryland, students get a first-rate, and entirely free, college education. The U.S. government invests approximately \$250,000 in educating each academy cadet. Graduates become commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy.

"I am very, very excited to be able to nominate students from the NMI to the Naval Academy as one of my first acts in office," said Sablan. "I am encouraging all interested students to contact my office as soon as possible. I don't want anyone to miss out." (PR)



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## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

#### December 19, 2000

##### JAL plans to deploy 9 more flights to Saipan

Gearing up to meeting the increased demand during the holiday season and the winter month of January, Tokyo-based Japan Airlines is dispatching nine additional flights out of three major cities in the country to Saipan. JAL-Saipan sales manager Yasuyoshi Kinoshita said the airline company will be deploying four extra flights from Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuoka to Saipan in addition to its daily flight services this month. According to Mr. Kinoshita, JAL is deploying five flights between Jan. 1-6, 2001 from the three major cities to the Northern Marianas in anticipation of the increased demand since overseas trips by Japanese travelers are normally high during this period when temperature is at its coldest in Japan.

##### TAG seeks 500K funding

The Tanapag Action Group has asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to provide \$500,000 in funding which will be used to carry out a congener-specific testing on members of Tanapag community. According to community leader Juan Tenorio, the money will also fund the blood test to be conducted on selected group of community members to verify the results of the earlier examination carried out by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry as well as the Commonwealth Health Center. "We made it clear to the governor that we want the testing done as soon as possible," said Tenorio.

#### December 19, 2001

##### NMI honors homegrown hero

It may have been fate that brought Emergency Medical Services Skills Retention Coordinator Derek T. Hocog to fly aboard Horizon Air last November 26, 2001, while transiting from Washington to Idaho for a national EMS training. The 29-year-old Department of Public Safety Fire Division employee, who was one among 39 passengers of that flight, made excellent use of his medical training when an elderly woman collapsed on the jet way, without sign of a pulse. Airline representatives seeking medical aid did not have to wait long for the assistance, as Hocog immediately volunteered to help revive the unconscious victim.

##### Teenager facing criminal raps for credit card fraud

A former Saipan Grand Hotel cashier was slapped with 54 counts of criminal charges based on complaints she used someone else's credit card to purchase items and services from various commercial outlets. The Attorney General's Office, through lawyer Daniel Cohan, filed the complaint before the Superior Court, alleging that Adrienne Akemi Brown, 18, engaged in theft by deception, forgery, receiving stolen property and misuse of credit card from July until November 2001. The defendant, who used at least four different names or aliases to conduct the alleged fraudulent transactions, was arrested Saturday in connection with the charges.

#### December 19, 2002

##### Rebates may be out Monday

Long awaited refund/rebate checks may finally be released Monday following tumultuous yet relatively speedy legislative action on the bill that would authorize the borrowing of \$19 million to replenish the depleted Special Rebate Trust Account. Over the last two days, the House of Representatives and the Senate passed House Bill 13-240 or the legislation that would authorize the Department of Finance to borrow \$19 million from the Bank of Guam so it could pay out all overdue tax rebates/refunds. The House passed the measure on a 16-1 vote Tuesday night, with Rep. Stanley Torres as the dissenting vote. The Senate concurred with the lower House action yesterday morning on a 7-0 vote. Both Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano and Sen. David M. Cing were absent.

##### Puerto Rico oil spill endangers lagoon

Many of the hundreds of barrels of waste oil stored at a Puerto Rico yard near the Tanapag Harbor have been leaking into the ground, threatening contamination of waterways, the Saipan Lagoon and its marine life. This prompted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to issue an administrative order directing the two firms handling the waste oil-Clean Earth and Solid Builders-to correct the situation. The two firms are engaged in storing waste oil and shipping them off-island. "There are leaking containers all over the place," said Rebecca Snider, public information specialist at the Division of Environmental Quality. She said EPA ordered both firms to conduct cleanup at the storage yard.



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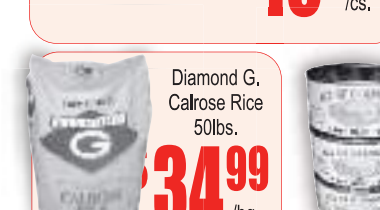
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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 354

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Lynn A. Knight** PUBLISHER  
**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
**Mark Rabago** ASSISTANT EDITOR

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## EDITORIAL

### Building a better Detroit

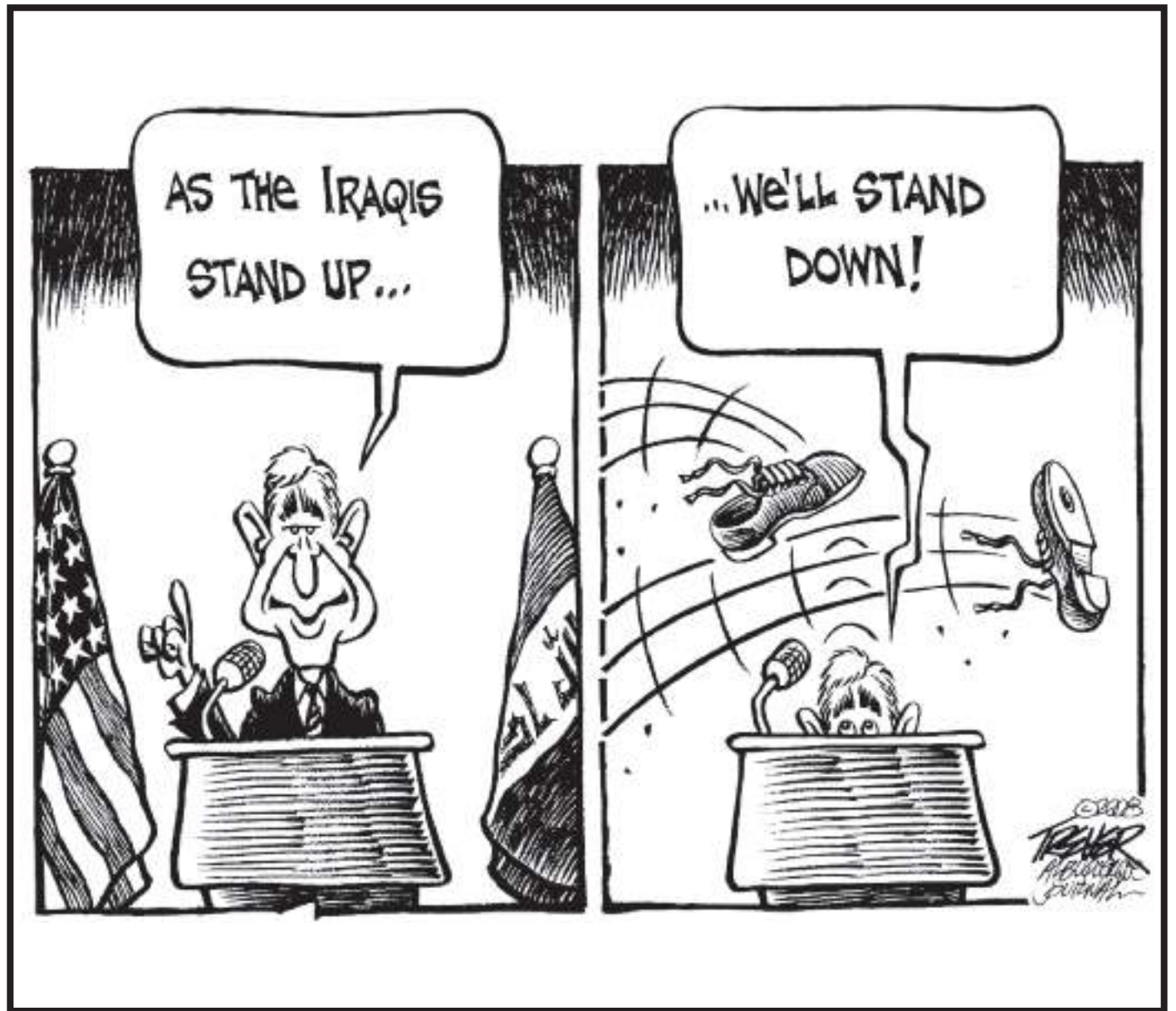
**T**he Bush administration is expected to throw a multibillion-dollar lifeline to General Motors and Chrysler this week, saving them from defaulting on their debts (for now). The move raises important questions about the trade-offs made when government tries to save companies deemed too big to fail. We accept Detroit's argument that letting one or more of the automakers collapse abruptly could be calamitous for millions of workers at the manufacturers, distributors and retailers whose fortunes are intertwined with those of the Big Three. But we wonder why the federal government is in a better position to guide GM, Chrysler or Ford to sustainability than a Bankruptcy Court would be.

U.S. automakers have to restructure, and they've clearly waited far too long to begin that process. In the last five years alone, their share of the domestic market has dropped from 63 percent to 48 percent, according to industry analyst CSM Worldwide. Yet they have been remodeling themselves in earnest for more than a year, and they have been building better cars. GM and Chrysler simply weren't far enough along to withstand the precipitous drop in demand in recent months. That's why they're on the brink of failure.

Investors and lenders are so cautious today, there's virtually no chance of GM or Chrysler surviving without some form of government help to sustain them during their restructuring. Still, it would be a mistake for the administration to offer anything but short-term help for the two companies. (Ford has said it's in no imminent danger.) That's because neither the automakers nor government officials have found the right terms for providing aid. Instead, much of Washington's focus has been on restricting executive pay and boosting fuel-economy standards, neither of which has anything to do with the challenge of retooling Detroit to make continually better cars that are popular and profitable.

The solution is to help the ailing automakers either through bankruptcy, as the government did with the airlines after the 9/11 attacks, or through a process that's similar in everything but name, as the government did in 1979 with Chrysler. The main drawbacks to bankruptcy are the chilling effect on potential investors and car buyers, although there may be creative ways to deal with both issues (for example, government-guaranteed warranties). On the other hand, the Chrysler bailout showed that an automaker's fortunes can turn around surprisingly quickly with the right combination of aid, leadership and products. Such a combination could be found again, although we haven't seen it yet. Otherwise, the best way to help automakers without imposing capricious political demands is to support them in Chapter 11.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



## Envoys for change

**P**resident-elect Barack Obama has repeatedly stated his intention to change the culture of Washington. He promises to drive the money changers (the lobbyists) from the temple, to reduce the partisanship and to appoint people who can actually do the job—not just his political supporters. This will require enormous sustained effort while he faces major domestic and international obstacles.

But there are changes he can make of a lesser sort, on his own, without legislation, that can significantly affect Washington and make clear his dedication to serious reform. Some involve things he can simply tell his team to do. Take the appointment of ambassadors.

Obama can publicly declare that he will not appoint ambassadors who have in effect secured their posts through financial contributions and who have little background to merit any such appointment. Indeed, he can further state that he will permit the appointment of non-career ambassadors—usually 30 to 40 percent of our ambassadors—only if they are uniquely appropriate for the job. Otherwise, ambassadorial positions will be reserved for experienced, capable career officials.

Clearly there are non-career people who can do the job of ambassador better than many members of the career service. Some bring a breadth of perspective and a relationship with the president not often found in career diplomats. Mike Mansfield, Edwin O. Reischauer and Elliott Richardson come to mind. (Some governments like to have a close friend of the president's as ambassador to their country, but that doesn't work unless the political ambassador is able and has the knowledge, insight and experience to serve the United States and the host country well.) But, unfortunately, many political ambassadors from past Democratic and Republican administrations have clearly been unqualified. Of course, so have some Foreign Service officers. The difference is that the career system makes mistakes, not political payoffs.

Changing our way of picking ambassadors could rid us of a long-standing political tradition not found in other countries. And it could do so without excluding from ambassadorships able people who are not career diplomats. Money and friendship may or may not coincide with merit, but they do not normally compensate for insufficient experience and commitment. This concern has been expressed by the American foreign service community—including organizations such as the American Foreign Service Association and the American Academy of Diplomacy, which propose limiting non-career ambassadorial appointments to 10 percent.

By **MORTON ABRAMOWITZ**  
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation, was a Foreign Service officer for more than 30 years.



Many of our best people do not want to work their way through a laborious career-development process in the government, often because they are capable of rising to the top more quickly in other professions. Add to this the fact that even a long-term career in the State Department does not guarantee that one will rise to a top position. That certainly further diminishes the appeal of the Foreign Service, and it is particularly discouraging when many of the most important jobs are reserved for political appointees. In fact, not many talented professional career diplomats can become ambassadors under current practices, especially at the larger, more prestigious posts. And now, with a huge number of Obama's capable supporters looking for jobs in the Washington-based foreign policy bureaucracy, career diplomats are likely to be even more shortchanged as the number of good jobs declines at home. Worse, many stars of the Foreign Service have left early.

The big question is: What sort of State Department do we want? Not many secretaries of state care much whether they leave a department that is better than the one they inherited. As a result, it is widely believed that the State Department has been weakened over many years (as has the entire government, for that matter). And while it is encouraging to see so many people wanting to work for an Obama government for idealistic reasons, it hardly means they want careers in government service. Clearly, it is past time to invigorate the State Department, to manifestly stress merit and to keep its best people from leaving.

Obama has emphasized the need for aggressive diplomacy and greater multilateralism to resolve difficult international issues. That stance has already helped win him much international support. Having a dedicated, highly competent Foreign Service should be important to him in this effort. Changing the ambassadorial appointment process would also indicate that Obama really is prepared to break with tradition and challenge Washington's less-admirable mores.



EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Brutal brevity

Filipinos, who are the backbone of the Commonwealth’s English-speaking labor and skilled worker pool, are in a real squeeze. Saipan has sunk under the dead weight of patronage and incompetence (which is to be remedied by more patronage and incompetence), federalization issues create additional uncertainty for the alien work force (it’s a real nail-biter now), and yet alternatives like the Philippine economy (always lousy) and the U.S. economy (in a historic decline and fall that would give even Gibbons nightmares) are mighty bleak as well.

Well, Filipinos don’t have the luxury of wishful thinking, so they’ve got to start tossing irons into fires.

So if there’s any good news to be had, it’s this: Your humble scribe has spent some time screening resumes from the Philippines lately, and it occurs to me that this is the perfect time to highlight a glaring fact: Philippine resume protocol and U.S. resume protocol are very different.

So, for those of you considering taking a leap into the (plunging) U.S. job market, let’s concentrate on this practical issue.

So, some observations:

1. Length

Many resumes I’ve seen from the Philippines are often three, four, or even more pages long, on par with what seems to be (but I don’t really know) the more extensive “Curriculum Vitae” which is used in nations that eat with their forks upside down.

By contrast, most American managers I’ve known have strongly

Life after Santa

By TIMOTHY CHAMBERS  
SPECIAL TO THE HARTFORD COURANT

When does childhood end? Many answers are possible, but the holiday season brings a tempting response to mind. Childhood ends when we are told that there is no Santa Claus, because learning “the truth about Santa” also teaches other lessons—lessons that are springboards toward maturity.

What lessons are these? For one, Santa Claus means that toys can be had without toil. To be sure, Santa’s elves work hard, but it’s usually assumed that they don’t view their labor as drudgery; otherwise, we’d expect them to unionize or strike against Santa Inc. for better benefits.

The “truth about Santa” thus carries with it a lesson about thrift: Goods and goals can’t be won without work.

A second lesson concerns fairness and charity. To a child, Santa Claus means that saints and sinners receive their just deserts. Good boys and girls are rewarded with gifts; willful children

When the cat is away

Mr. McCue, as I have stated in my last letter published Dec. 16, 2008, our group has been working diligently, carefully and quietly with some government and private agencies to help in our own way to boost the ailing CNMI economy and address the critical issues long-term guest workers are facing and would be facing.

A few months back, there were really some heated arguments between some local groups and long-term guest workers. but we were able to sit down and listened to each other. You are not here physically, so you do not really know all the details that are happening here. So please, don’t act like you are here with us. We are mature people here who, after listening to both sides, were able to understand each other’s issues and sentiments, though we still each have our own ideas and opinions, which we respect. We may not be friends with one another but we act like a mature people when we need to sit down or occasionally bump into each other.

Who is paying?

The governor has no standing in his hypothetical and speculative case against America. Fitial’s actions are costly and an embarrassment to the people here, frivolous in every respect. House Rep. Sablan’s letter was cited in the United States’ motion to dismiss. Her comments demonstrated more reason and logic than the governor, his administration, his business associates and their interests, his free consultants, and she has represented the CNMI with wisdom and tenacity.

The governor has again squandered our dwindling resources for his own political and proprietary interests. Most NMI congresspersons stood silent during this affair, and are apparently either unwilling or unequipped to act on our dire circumstances and complicated economic

preferred one-page resumes. I’m not saying a two-pager will get tossed into the shredder, but no matter how you slice it, a U.S. style resume is usually an exercise in brutal brevity. It’s more of a teaser with choice highlights than a comprehensive autobiography.

2. Personal data

I know that listing date of birth, religion, and marital status is common in some places, and, in fact, this information is often put right at the top. My experience in U.S. circles, by contrast, is that this information isn’t considered appropriate.

3. References

These apparently are often listed on Philippine resumes. However, on U.S. resumes, from my experience, they are not; the U.S. convention is that you’ll be expected to cough up references at a job interview (which means you should have a page of references to ready to present at the appropriate time).

Of course, like everything else in the resume realm, none of this is cast in stone. One of my old bosses lists all of his references on his resume. His theory is he builds instant credibly by enabling the resume reader to pick the up the phone and verify his competence and character right away. He always seems to have a good job.

4. Mug shots

Fairly common, from what I’ve seen, on Philippine resumes. Fairly uncommon, from what I’ve seen, stateside.

find coal in their stockings. And Santa never errs in his tallies of naughty and nice.

But once Santa is retired from children’s imaginations, the world becomes morally nuanced. Brats’ cups can (and sometimes do) run-neth over, while children whose hearts brim with goodness find their lives empty of blessings. The dream Santa represents is replaced with a hard reality: Life is often unfair.

In the face of this harsh truth, two reactions are possible. We can become cynical, accept the unfairness as “the way things are,” and merely seek our own selfish security.

But there’s another way. We can continue to cherish the ideal Santa represents: that all children deserve to know the joy of benefiting from another’s thoughtfulness. But since no Jolly Old Elf exists to enact this ideal, we must take up the job ourselves. It’s up to us to make the season special for those less lucky than ourselves, and help realize the virtues of benevolence, charity and goodwill.

A magical thing happens on the heels of such a commitment: We see how Santa can still be real, even if he doesn’t exist. Rarely

There is a saying, “When the cat is away, the rats will play.” I will say that, “When the cat is away, he doesn’t know that the dogs and rats are talking about.” Sounds different, huh?! But that is what’s happening and that’s what you don’t know because you are miles away.

When a person invites me to be a guest in their house and he/she offers me soda, I could refuse that, right? And ask for water instead. If the host asks me to stop smoking L&M Blue and insists that I should try smoking their marijuana, I could refuse, right? And even if I am a guest in that house, and I can see the flies are on the food, I can shoo them away, right? In my simple examples, I hope you understand what I want to imply. I may be short in my English vocabulary, but I have the freedom to use the little that I know of.

No one can force me to do things I do not like. It is my own will to come here and stay for 14 years now. I will state with my head up: “I am enjoying my life here in the CNMI and the CNMI made my life better. I have accepted the conditions of my life here. But that doesn’t mean I will just accept things as they are.”

issues. It is amazing that so many local lawmakers would let Fitial and a couple of mainland lawyers squander NMI money against the best interests of so many needy indigenous children and their futures.

The CNMI financial collapse is imminent and for the CNMI Legislature to do nothing is unforgivable. This regime brings no shame to citizens here unless we do nothing about it. We must demand accountability for these actions, specifically who funded this legal action and what the decent citizens of the NMI now owe this person, company, or country. I am requesting the U.S. Homeland Security Department to investigate this matter expeditiously for the best interests of our citizens and the security interests of the United States of America.

Ron Hodges  
via e-mail

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



5. Mealy-mouthing

This seems to be universal now. Everybody is a “Proactive, dynamic individual” who “desires career enhancement by obtaining a long-term entrepreneurial opportunity with a progressive firm.”

Yuck. Doesn’t anybody just want a job anymore?

6. Delusions

The resumes I’ve seen from the Philippines have all avoided the bizarre flights of fancy that I’ve seen on many U.S. resumes. A solid 25 percent of U.S. resumes seem to emanate from lifetime office workers who (listing “hobbies” or “interests”) also happen to be SEAL-class SCUBA divers, and Olympic-class cyclists, and Special Forces-grade mountaineers. I don’t know how other readers react to those tangents. As for me, I think a lot of people are bored with their lives and want to spice up their resumes with dramatic and non-pertinent flair, which indicates to me they are not fulfilled with their careers.

has the substance behind this sentiment been better expressed than in the delightful story, “One Christmas,” by Truman Capote. “Of course there is a Santa Claus,” he wrote. “It’s just that no single somebody could do all he has to do. So the Lord has spread the task among us all. That’s why everybody is Santa Claus. I am. You are. Even your cousin Billy Bob.”

The same insight can be found in newspaper editor Francis Church’s famous reply to an 8-year-old skeptic: “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus,” Church declared. “He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist.” For after all, Santa is merely the fictional face we paint upon these very real virtues.

In just this way, we learn a better image of Santa Claus: He might not exist at the North Pole, but he can be realized within us all. This might be the most important lesson the “truth about Santa” can teach young people. For when does adulthood begin? On the very day we start striving to become the ideals and exemplars we admired as children.

Chambers teaches philosophy at the University of Hartford.

Merry Christmas to you and may you find love and peace wherever you are.

Malou H. Berueco  
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Timely publication

Two of my letters to the editor were written and submitted weeks, if not months previously, in response to letters written by others. Since the lapse in time has occurred people may forget what letter I am writing in reference to. Time is of the essence. The lapse of time changes the tone, perceived intent and the general view people may hold of writers. A newspaper and/or its editorial team ought to understand this. I trust that future letters are published timely or they will ask writers if they still want letters that are withheld to be published at all.

William McCue  
Wellington, Florida

Johnny come lately

The suggestion by former governor Juan N. Babauta that we sue the federal government for Compact impact funds is a wonderful excuse in official negligence. Problem? It’s a Johnny-come-lately recommendation.

He was in Washington for 12 years and another four years here as governor. Why didn’t he lift a finger to resolve this matter? Too busy playing the white Trojan horse favoring federalization as to morph into an obedient mute for the feds? Nothing can be further from the truth!






John S. DelRosario Jr.  
As Gonno, Saipan



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲89 ▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Sunny	▲84 ▼76

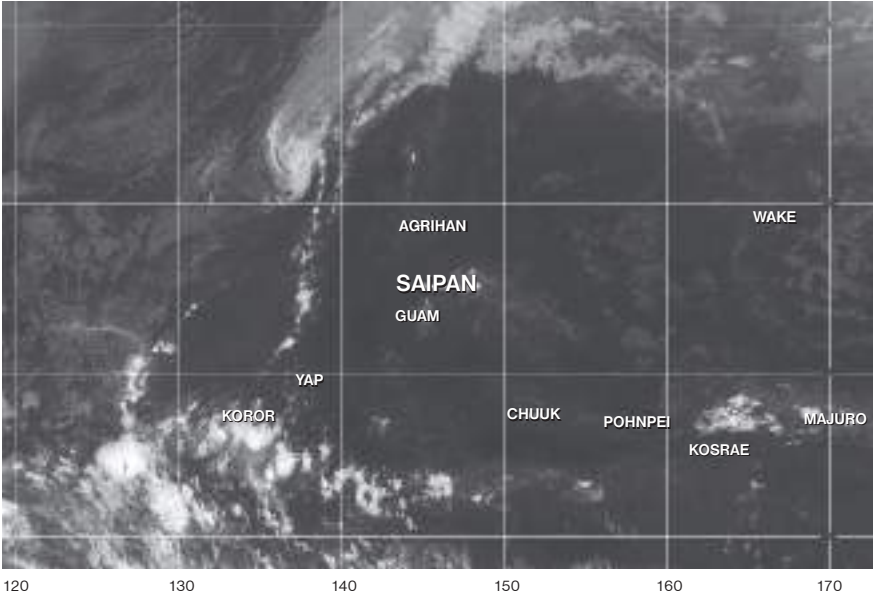
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲71 ▼65
Beijing	Cloudy	▲37 ▼18
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼63
Honolulu	Rain	▲80 ▼70
London	Showers	▲48 ▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲58 ▼44
Manila	Showers	▲85 ▼69
Melbourne	Dreary	▲61 ▼47
Miami	Sunny	▲80 ▼66
New York	Rain/Snow	▲38 ▼33
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲52 ▼39
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲48 ▼41
Pusan	Sunny	▲49 ▼38
Rome	Rain	▲50 ▼35
Salem	Cold	▲22 ▼13
San Francisco	Rain	▲52 ▼40
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲41 ▼22
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲51 ▼39
Washington, DC	Rain	▲48 ▼40

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:39AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
1:35PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:14PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, DEC. 18, 2008

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Dolphin (27W) is centered near 20N134E or 730 miles west-northwest of Agrihan. It is moving northeastward at 14 mph with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are occurring within 90 miles of the storm center. For more detailed information, see NWS advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A nearly stationary front stretches northeastward from just north of Dolphin to beyond 25N at 145E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and northwest of the front over two To island or north of a line from 22N135E to 25N145E. A near-equatorial trough runs southeastward from east of Mindanao at 4N130E to end at EQ137E. Trade-wind convergence north of the trough axis is producing widely scattered showers over Koror but south of Yap between 3N and 8N from 132E to 141E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers over Kwajalein and Majuro then eastward to the dateline within 100 miles of a line from 7N164E to 8N168E to 5N175E to 8N180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:38AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:38AM	5:52 PM
Monday	6:39AM	5:52 PM
Tuesday	6:39AM	5:53 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:53 AM	
Saturday	12:21AM	12:30 PM
Sunday	1:11AM	1:07 PM
Monday	2:01AM	1:46 PM
Tuesday	2:51AM	2:26 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
  - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	<b>Incheon-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:40am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b> FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b> FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)





PHOTO BY REY BELGADO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, fifth left-standing, Senate President Pete Reyes, fourth left-standing, and University of Loyola at CNMI president/CEO Dr. Johnny Fong, fifth right-standing, along with other special guests and faculty members, join the 11 nursing graduates of the University of Loyola at CNMI during the school's first commencement exercises on Wednesday night at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio. Standing from left, Dr. Roland Brown, nursing program dean Karen Buettner, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Reyes, Fitial, Fong, Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Dr. Edgardo Salud, Dr. Efrén Palabyab and Perry Conner.

## 11 students graduate from Loyola

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Eleven nursing students on Wednesday became the first graduates from the University of Loyola at CNMI.

The eleven students received an associate science degree in nursing. The students were: Marjorie Celebrado, Francis Jason Dimapilis, Robina Francia, Nerissa Inciong, Jean Isidro, Ariel Jerome Laus, Arnaldo Laus, John Lawrence Pelayo, Philip

Laurence Salud, Vanessa Tebia and Robert Vincent Ungco.

Gov. Benigno Fitial gave the keynote address. He said he was very proud of the historic achievement the graduation ceremony represented.

"It's not just an accomplishment for the students, but for the CNMI — to have two nursing programs is an accomplishment," he said referring to Emmanuel College, which recently held a graduation ceremony for its nurses a few months ago.

There are currently 35 students enrolled in the nursing program at Loyola.

University of Loyola at CNMI president/CEO Dr. Johnny Y. Fong presented the opening remarks.

Several officials were in attendance at the ceremony, including Senate President Pete Reyes, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela, Rep. Oscar Babauta, and Labor Director Barry Hirshbein, among others.

## 5 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on five Saipan beaches and warns the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico dump, Garapan Beach Drainage, and Sugar Dock.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500.



### 'IN THE NETWORK'

PTI presents the winner of this year's Miss Marianas Universe with a Motorola Q9c smart phone and one year of free unlimited data. Pictured are Larry Knecht, PTI's General Manager, presenting Sorene Maritita, Miss Marianas Universe 2008, with her new phone.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Happy Holidays Christmas Specials from Palms Resort Saipan

## Christmas Eve December 24, 2008

### Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet at fresco

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

\$25.00 Adult / \$15.00 Child \* Local discount 20% applicable  
\* San Roque Club & Buddy Card Welcome

### Christmas Special Teppan-yaki Dinner Course at Kaenju

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

\$120.00 per person \* Local discount 20% applicable  
\* San Roque Club & Buddy Card Welcome

### Christmas Special at PauPau Bar

5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

\$2.50 for Beer and glass of wine (red / white)

## Christmas Day December 25, 2008

### Christmas Day Brunch at fresco

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

\$25.00 Adult / \$15.00 Child \* Local discount 20% applicable  
\* San Roque Club & Buddy Card Welcome

### Christmas Special Teppan-yaki Dinner Course at Kaenju

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

\$120.00 per person \* Local discount 20% applicable  
\* San Roque Club & Buddy Card Welcome

### Christmas Special at PauPau Bar

5:00 pm - 10:00 pm

\$2.50 for Beer and glass of wine (red / white)

## Holiday Package Menu ~ January 3, 2009

[PACKAGE A \$45.00]  
(Serves: 3 ~ 4 people)

[PACKAGE B \$95.00]  
(Serves: 6 ~ 8 people)

\* Reservation at least 2 days in advance.

Roasted Turkey with Stuffing  
Cranberry Sauce  
Gravy Sauce  
Dinner Roll  
Mash Potato  
Cheese Cake

## Christmas Cakes ~ January 3, 2009

Chocolate Mousse Cake  
Vanilla Mousse Cake  
Chocolate Tarte

All cakes,  
7.2" / 18cm \$26.00  
8.4" / 21cm \$33.00

\* Reservation at least 3 days in advance.  
\* San Roque Club 20% discount applicable



For reservation or more information, please call 322-3311

# Palms Resort Saipan



# DUI checkpoints on Christmas, New Year eves

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI checkpoints on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31.

On Dec. 24, 2008, there will be three sobriety checkpoints.

The first setup will be on

Beach Road Chalan Kanoa in front of Carmen Safeway (northbound outer lane), from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Susupe in front of the Minatchom Atdao pavilion (southbound outer lane). This

will start at 10:30pm and will end at 11:45pm.

The third setup will be on 2W Highway Gualo Rai in front of Han's Corporation (northbound outer lane), beginning at 3am on Dec. 25 and ending at 4:15am.

DPS will also conduct three sobriety checkpoints on Dec. 31.

The first setup will be on Beach Road Susupe in front of the Multi-Purpose Center (northbound outer lane), from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on

Beach Road Chalan Laulau in front of the intersection of B&R Auto Shop (southbound outer lane). This will begin at 10:30pm and end at 11:45pm.

The third setup will be on 2W Highway Chalan Laulau in front of PTI (southbound outer lane), from 3am to 4:15am of Jan. 1, 2009.

Each checkpoints conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the

department's 3D program to deter and detect impaired driving and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sgt. Paul Ogumoro or Officer Eric David at 664-9084 or fax at 664-9086. (DPS)

## Tinian police schedule four DUI checkpoints

The Tinian Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints next week.

The first checkpoint will be held on Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, along the westbound lane of Broadway Road by the baseball field in San Jose village. The checkpoint will begin at 7pm and end at 8:15pm.

The second one will be held

on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2008, along Marpo Valley road by Hofschneider's warehouse. It will start at 8pm and end at 9:15pm.

The third will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2008, along Broadway Road by the Tinian Democrat headquarters. The checkpoint will start at 8pm and end at 9:15pm.

The second setup will be along the westbound lane of

Broadway Road by the baseball field in San Jose village. It will start at 11pm and will be terminated at 12:15am.

The third setup will be along Broadway road by Housing Turnkey on the northbound lane, from 1am to 2:15am.

The fourth checkpoint will be held on Thursday, Dec. 25, 2008, along Broadway Road by the baseball field in San Jose

village. It will start at 6pm and will end at 7:15pm.

All the checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

In addition to the checkpoints, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser activities.

For more information, contact PO3 Wally F. Villagomez at 433-9222/433-2041. (PR)

## Calvary Christian students win 2 VFW essay contests

Two students from the Calvary Christian Academy topped the annual youth essay writing competition sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Saipan Post 3457.

Zelena Palijo from Calvary Christian Academy won first place in the Voice of Democracy category. This competition is an oral essay open to students in grades 9-12.

The other winners in this category are Jermaine Peres, also from Calvary Christian, who got second place, while Nacita Aldan from Marianas High School got third place.

In the Patriot's Pen category, this year's top winner is Karen Alamer of Calvary Christian Academy. This category is a written essay open to students

in grades 6-8.

The other winners are Ian Rogolifoi from Mount Carmel, second place; and Daphne Dela Cruz from Hopwood Junior High, third place.

All winning students will receive a certificate of achievement and a cash award to be presented at the VFW headquarters on Beach Road. The ceremony will take place on Monday, Dec. 22, at 5:30pm. All students and their parents or guardians are urged to attend.

Additionally, each year the VFW recognizes teachers from all grade levels who promote civic responsibility and patriotism in the classroom. This year's winner is John H. Davis Jr. from Marianas High School.

### BASIC TRAINING

Congratulations to Pvt Glenn C. Sablan for completing Basic Combat Training on Dec. 17, 2008, at Ford Knox, Kentucky. Greetings come from your loving wife Karen, daughter Kaylenn, friends and family. "We love and miss you! See you soon!"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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- **Saturdays** – KL Market 10am – 12pm and Price Costco 1pm – 3pm

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### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on its listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies who wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Certified Current Financial Statement
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Forms
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts including three (3) reference letters from owners of the projects
9. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
10. The company's total years in the construction business
11. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable

**FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY JANUARY 19, 2009 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS".**

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO

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<b>Diamond G Calrose Rice</b> Limit 1 <b>SALE \$32.99</b> 50 lbs.	<b>Quarter Leg Chicken</b> <b>SALE \$23.99</b> 33 lbs. <b>\$19.99</b> Limit 2 22 lbs.	<b>Sun-Land Whole Young Chicken</b> <b>SALE \$32.99</b> Limit 1 /case	<b>Pork Spareribs BBQ or Adobo Cut</b> <b>\$15.99</b> 20 lbs. <b>SALE \$17.95</b> Limit 2 25 lbs.	<b>Danish Baby Ribs</b> <b>SALE \$14.95</b> Limit 2 10 lbs.	<b>Pork Riblets</b> Limit 2 <b>SALE \$10.99</b> /case	<b>Beef Back Ribs</b> Limit 2 <b>SALE \$24.99</b> /20 lbs.
<b>Ichiban</b> <b>SALE \$7.99</b> Limit 1	<b>Lotus Brand Rice</b> Limit 1 <b>SALE \$24.99</b> 50 lbs.	<b>Royal Thai Lady Rice</b> Limit 1 <b>SALE \$27.99</b> 50 lbs.	<b>Salad Oil 5 Gallon</b> Limit 1 <b>SALE \$29.99</b>	<b>Milk Fish</b> <b>SALE \$1.49</b> /lb. <b>\$58.95</b> /case	<b>Tilapia</b> <b>99¢</b> /lb. <b>SALE \$38.95</b> /case	<b>Master A-1 Tuna</b> <b>SALE 99¢</b> each Limit 12 Cans
<b>Spam All Flavors</b> <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /each Limit 1 Case	<b>Revlon Color Silk</b> <b>SALE \$3.99</b>	<b>Black Label Luncheon Loaf</b> <b>SALE \$1.39</b> /each Limit 12	<b>Warm Coke Pepsi</b> <b>SALE \$11.99</b> warm /case <b>\$13.95</b> cold Limit 1 Case	<b>Bud Family</b> <b>SALE \$23.99</b> warm /case <b>\$24.99</b> cold Limit 1 Case	<b>Miller Lite</b> <b>SALE \$22.99</b> /case Limit 1 Case	<b>HITE Beer</b> <b>SALE \$14.50</b> /case Limit 1 Case

### FROZEN FOOD

### NON-FOOD

 <b>Chopped Ham</b> <b>SALE \$17.99</b> /10 lbs.	 <b>Gusto Smoked</b> <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /lb.	 <b>Beef Rib Finger</b> <b>SALE \$2.89</b> /lb.	 <b>Ground Pork</b> <b>SALE \$17.99</b> /pkg.	 <b>Ground Beef</b> <b>SALE \$16.95</b> /10 lbs.																					
 <b>Chamorro Sausage</b> <b>SALE \$4.29</b> /pkg.	<div><b>Family Bag Special</b> <table><tr><td>Pork Hocks .....</td><td>\$8.95</td></tr><tr><td>Pork Belly .....</td><td>\$10.95</td></tr><tr><td>Pork Adobo .....</td><td>\$9.95</td></tr><tr><td>Pork Spareribs .....</td><td>\$6.95</td></tr><tr><td>Pork Chops .....</td><td>\$13.98</td></tr><tr><td>Beef Stew .....</td><td>\$13.95</td></tr><tr><td>Beef Backribs .....</td><td>\$8.95</td></tr><tr><td>Beef Shortribs .....</td><td>\$15.95</td></tr><tr><td>Stewing Chicken .....</td><td>\$5.95</td></tr><tr><td>Quarter Leg s .....</td><td>\$5.95</td></tr></table></div>			Pork Hocks .....	\$8.95	Pork Belly .....	\$10.95	Pork Adobo .....	\$9.95	Pork Spareribs .....	\$6.95	Pork Chops .....	\$13.98	Beef Stew .....	\$13.95	Beef Backribs .....	\$8.95	Beef Shortribs .....	\$15.95	Stewing Chicken .....	\$5.95	Quarter Leg s .....	\$5.95	 <b>Chicken Winggets</b> <b>SALE \$9.99</b> /5 lbs.	 <b>Bar S Bacon</b> <b>SALE \$2.49</b> /pkg.
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Quarter Leg s .....	\$5.95																								
 <b>Miller Sausage</b> <b>SALE \$15.99</b> /pkg.				 <b>Turkey Tail</b> <b>SALE \$19.99</b> /cs.																					
 <b>Hoffy Portuguese Sausage</b> <b>SALE \$1.99</b> /pkg.				 <b>Hoffy Hot Sausage</b> <b>SALE \$5.99</b> /5 lbs.																					
 <b>Smoked Salmon Collar</b> <b>SALE \$27.99</b> /10 lbs.	 <b>Marinated Milkfish</b> <b>SALE \$4.99</b> /pkg.	 <b>Green Mussels</b> <b>SALE \$4.99</b> /5 lbs.	 <b>Dragon King Shrimp 26/30</b> <b>SALE \$3.99</b> /lb.	 <b>Vega Shrimp</b> <b>SALE \$4.99</b> /lb.																					

<b>Adult Diapers</b>  <b>SALE \$7.95</b>	<b>Bounty 8 Rolls</b>  <b>SALE \$8.95</b>	<b>Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls</b>  <b>SALE \$3.95</b>	<b>Soft &amp; Gentle 24 Rolls</b>  <b>SALE \$8.99</b>	<b>Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct.</b>  <b>SALE \$5.99</b>	<b>Safeguard Bar Soap</b>  <b>SALE 59¢/each</b>	<b>Sun Lighting Energy Saving Bulb White 30W</b>  <b>SALE \$1.99</b>	<b>Sun Lighting Energy Saving Bulb White 20W</b>  <b>SALE \$1.75</b>
<b>Top Detergent Powder 3 kg.</b>  <b>SALE \$5.99</b>	<b>Gain Powder Detergent 120 Loads</b>  <b>SALE \$16.99</b>	<b>Gain Liquid Detergent</b>  <b>SALE \$4.99</b>	<b>Clorox 96 oz.</b>  <b>SALE \$2.99</b>	<b>Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz.</b>  <b>SALE \$5.99</b>	<b>Fugo Candle Jar</b>  <b>SALE \$11.95/each</b>	<b>9" Cake Saver</b>  <b>SALE \$2.50</b>	
<b>Precious Moments Baby Wipes Refil 80's</b>  <b>SALE \$1.50</b>	<b>2pc Stainless Steel Tong</b>  <b>SALE \$1.99</b>	<b>Toothbrush 4's</b>  <b>SALE \$1.99</b>	<b>Care Bears Kids Toothbrush 3's</b>  <b>SALE \$1.99</b>	<b>Disposable Razors 20's</b>  <b>SALE \$1.75</b>	<b>Disposable Razors 10's</b>  <b>SALE 99¢</b>	<b>Disposable Razors Touch 3 2s</b>  <b>SALE \$1.25</b>	
<b>Fresh Cup Coffee Filters 200's</b>  <b>SALE \$1.99</b>	<b>Champion Door Knob</b>  <b>SALE \$4.50</b>	<b>Panasonic Batteries Size D &amp; C 2's</b>  <b>SALE 75¢</b>	<b>Panasonic Batteries Size AA 4's</b>  <b>SALE 75¢</b>	<b>Horse Shampoo 32 oz.</b>  <b>SALE \$1.49</b>	<b>Sunsilk Shampoo Straighten Up Only</b>  <b>SALE \$2.99</b>	<b>Napa Motor Oil</b>  <b>SALE \$2.95</b>	<b>Butane Gas</b>  <b>SALE \$20.99/case</b> Limit 2

### GROCERY ITEMS

<b>Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup</b> <b>SALE 89¢</b>	<b>Hormel Chili (No Beans)</b> <b>SALE \$1.59</b>	<b>Hormel Corned Beef Hash</b> <b>SALE \$1.79</b> Sliced	<b>Dutch Colony Luncheon Meat</b> <b>SALE \$1.35</b> Limit 12	<b>Coco Tuna</b> <b>SALE \$1.09</b>	<b>Beach Cliff Sardines</b> <b>SALE 79¢</b>	<b>Ligo Sardines</b> <b>SALE 3 for \$1.00</b>	<b>Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce</b> All Flavors <b>SALE \$1.29</b>	<b>Ox &amp; Plum Corned Beef</b> <b>SALE \$2.29</b> Limit 12 /each
<b>Del Monte Kernel Corn</b> <b>SALE 69¢</b>	<b>Del Monte Fruit Cocktail</b> <b>SALE \$3.99</b>	<b>Carnation Milk</b> <b>SALE 99¢</b>	<b>Golden State Vinegar</b> <b>SALE \$2.99</b>	<b>Sugar</b> <b>SALE \$1.49</b> /kg.	<b>Nestea 36 qts.</b> <b>SALE \$6.99</b>	<b>Kikkoman Limit 1 Cs. (6pcs. 1 Cs)</b> <b>SALE \$3.79</b> 1.6 lr. <b>\$6.99</b> 3 lr.	<b>Vegetable Oil 1 Gallon</b> <b>SALE \$8.75</b>	
<b>Vlasic Dill Pickles</b> <b>SALE \$6.99</b> Whole <b>\$5.95</b> Whole	<b>Chamorro Punch</b> <b>SALE \$8.99</b>	<b>Water 500 ml.</b> <b>SALE \$5.95</b> /case	<b>Sunkist All Flavors</b> <b>SALE \$5.95</b> /case	<b>Kool Aid 34 Qt.</b> <b>SALE \$5.99</b>	<b>Ritz Soda All Flavors Limit 2 Case</b> <b>SALE \$10.95</b> /case	<b>Real Fresh Milk</b> <b>SALE \$17.95</b> /case	<b>Lucky Mee Cup Noodle (Jjamppong) 24 pcs.</b> <b>SALE \$7.99</b> /case	

### PRODUCE

<b>Potato (Jumbo)</b> <b>SALE 89¢</b> /lb.	<b>Orange</b> <b>SALE 89¢</b> /lb.	<b>Onion</b> <b>SALE 59¢</b> /lb.	<b>Korean Pears</b> <b>SALE \$1.69</b> /lbs. <b>\$54.99</b> /case	<b>Garlic</b> <b>SALE 89¢</b> /pack-4 pcs.
<b>Red Apple Cello</b> <b>SALE \$3.99</b> /Bag	<b>Banana</b> <b>SALE \$1.09</b> /lb.	<b>Cantaloupe</b> <b>SALE 99¢</b> /lb.	<b>U.S. Eggs Extra Large</b> <b>SALE \$2.09</b> /doz.	

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## GREEN MEADOW PGFC WINNERS

The following are the winners of the Green Meadow School during the Primary Grade Forensic Conference held Dec. 6, 2008, at the San Antonio Elementary School:

### K-2 DIVISION:

1st Place: Duo B-  
Andrea Monique Agtarap and Gabrielle Shanikka Flores  
1st Place: Choral Speaking A:  
Ryan Louis Divino

Gabrielle Shanikka Flores  
Pionnah Rosej Agtarap  
Anniea Sofia Saturno  
1st Place: Choral Speaking B:  
Art Vincent Alfeche  
Sean Aaron Ancheta  
Ardel Austin Cielo  
Ian Willard Ranin  
Dustin Ross Salilin  
2nd Place: R.F.MA  
Robin Matthew Reyes  
2nd Place: Duo A

Ian Willard Ranin and Dustin Ross Salilin  
2nd Place Choral Speaking A:  
Andrea Monique Agtarap  
Angel Sean Legaspi  
Danielle Pineda  
Robin Matthew Reyes  
Tianna Thalia Villagomez  
3rd Place: Duo A  
Angel Mae Oropesa and Kim-  
verly Ann Dela Cruz  
3rd Place: Duo B



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Primary Grade Forensic Conference winners of the Green Meadow School pose for a souvenir picture.

Ryan Louis Divino and Anniea Sofia Saturno  
4th Place: Dramatic Interpretation  
Kristina Crisostomo  
5th Place: Choral Speaking A  
Kristina Crisostomo  
Jhanylin Cruz  
Claire Marzan  
Christian Palattao

### 3-5 DIVISION

1st Place: D.I.  
Chekaina Coloma  
1st Place: R.F.E.

Ma. Fatima Briones  
1st Place: R.F.D.  
Amelito Dalusong Jr.  
1st Place: R.F.A.  
Aira Monica Usi  
1st Place: Duo B  
Ian Lemuel Elnas and Piolo Gregorio  
2nd Place: R.F. B  
Kathleen Trinidad  
3rd Place: D.I.  
Ma. Theresa Dalusong  
3rd Place: Choral Speaking A:  
Mary Grace Briones  
Keanre Deseo

Patricia Sablan  
Joshua Saturno  
4th Place: H.I.  
Amelito Dalusong Jr.  
5th Place: D.I.  
Patricia Sablan

Coaches:  
Program Coordinator- Ms. Grace Rosete  
K5- Ms Sony Natividad  
1st Grade - Ms. Moody Binuya  
2nd Grade & 4th Grade - Ms. Eleonor Alejo  
3rd Grade - Ms. Marilyn Divino

## GREEN MEADOW MATH COURT WINNERS

The following is the list winners of Green Meadow School during the Math Court competition held Dec. 13, 2008, at the Koblerville Elementary School:

### NUMBER SENSE:

#### Kinder 5:

Second Place: Jhanylin Cruz  
Claire Marzan  
Christian Palattao  
Third Place: Mikee Mendoza  
Ivan Sitchon

#### Second Grade:

Second Place: Danielle Pineda

#### Third Grade:

First Place: Amelito Dalusong Jr.  
Second Place: Kathleen Trinidad  
Third Place: Monica Aira Usi

#### Fourth Grade:

Second Place: Danielle Coloma  
Third Place: Kaela Valencia

### ALGEBRA

#### Kinder 5:

First Place: Jhanylin Cruz

Second Place: Mikee Mendoza  
Christian Palattao  
Fourth Place: Ivan Sitchon

Robin Reyes  
Fifth Place: Pionnah Gregorio

#### Third Grade

First Place: Amelito Dalusong Jr.  
Third Place: Kathleen Trinidad

Coaches: Ms. Sony G. Natividad  
Ms. Leonor Marfil  
Math Coordinator - Ms. Grace Rosete  
Principal - Ms. Marilyn Divino



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School students pose after participating in the Math Court competition.

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- Lowers blood fats
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**\$14,995<sup>00\*</sup>**



2005 Ford Mustang  
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2004 Honda Element EX 4x4  
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# NMC staff complete advanced computer training

Information Technology staff members at the Northern Marianas College recently completed a training designed to enhance their ability to manage and maintain computer networks.

Titled "Cisco Boot Camp," the training was part of the college's overall effort to continuously build staff capacity to improve service to students, faculty, and staff. It also provided all the IT staff with the knowledge and skills to prepare for the Cisco certification exam, which will be taken sometime next month.

"The training allows our staff to become proficient in managing our IT infrastructure," said Adrian Atalig,

NMC IT director. "In this information age, we want to ensure that NMC is at the forefront of technology."

The industry-recognized certification called Cisco Certified Network Associate credentials ensures that the NMC IT staff has the ability, knowledge, and skills to install and configure Cisco switches and routers in local and wide-area networks using various platforms. The certification also validates the ability to mitigate security threats to NMC's computer network.

The five-day training included the following topics: describing the network infrastructure; configuring, verifying, and trouble-

shooting a switch with VLANs and inter-switch communications; implementing an IP addressing scheme and IP services to meet network requirements in a medium-size enterprise branch office network; configuring basic router operation and routing on Cisco devices; and identifying security threats to a network and describing general methods to mitigate those threats. (NMC)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC Information Technology staff members pose for a photo with Cisco Training facilitators. From left: Sue Palacios, Eric Abragan, Dwayne Maratita, Jovian Aramada, IT Director Adrian Atalig, training facilitator Robert Victor, Greg Quitugua, James Santos, James Deleon Guerrero, facilitator James Obsuna, and John Quitugua.



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### MAFEA Christmas party on Sunday

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers & Architects on Saipan will be having a Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008 from 12pm (lunch) onward, at Garapan Central Park Pavilion (Round House). The Hi-Pitch Band will perform back-to-back with the Mafea Band members. All Mafeans are encouraged to attend the party. Mafea is also inviting all Filipino engineers and architects to come and join us.

For more information, contact Bong de Guzman 233-5938; Lito Marquez, 286-6337; Jun Liberato, 789-4127; Domie Aquino, 789-5168; or Hector Sevilla 233-7049. (PR)

### Sr. Remedios school calendar of events

The school will have its school Christmas Party and fun day today, Dec. 19. It will be a regular school 7:30am to 11:30pm. Attire for this day will also be casual. Daycare is still available on this day. Classes will resume on Jan. 5, 2009. (PR)

### Marianas High School schedule

Dec. 24-Jan. 2: No classes (Christmas break)  
For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. (PR)

### Kagman High calendar of activities

Dec. 22: KHS accreditation team meets with BOE/COE  
Dec. 23: Christmas 2008 bash at the school campus, 6pm-10pm.  
Dec. 24 2008 to Jan. 4 2009: Christmas break  
Jan. 5 2009: Classes resume

### Live-fire training on Farallon today

The U.S. military is currently conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, Dec. 19, from 9am to 9pm, on the island's training area on a 10 nautical radius on all quadrants.

The Emergency Management Office is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16 and HF single side band radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

### Vendors sought for Puengin Inetnon

The Kagman Komunitat Association is looking for interested vendors to sell food, clothing, games, and other types of family oriented entertainment for "Puengin Inetnon."

"Puengin Inetnon" is Chamorro for "a night of gathering."

It will be similar to the Thursday Night Street Market in Garapan except that it will be held every government payday Friday at the Kagman Community Center. Interested vendors, volunteers, and performers may call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. (PR)

### RP resets overseas absentee voters registration/certification

The Philippine Consulate General would like to inform all the Filipinos in the CNMI that as per Resolution No. 8556, the Philippine Commission on Elections has reset the registration/certification of overseas absentee voters from Dec. 1, 2008 to Feb. 1, 2009, ending on Aug. 31, 2009. All qualified Filipino voters are urged to register as overseas voters or to update their records (if they have previously voted in the Philippines) to enable them to vote during the 2010 Philippine presidential elections. (PR)

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# Business

## Obama looking at \$850 billion jolt to the economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eager to jolt a worsening economy back to life, President-elect Barack Obama's aides are assembling a two-year stimulus package that could cost \$850 billion, dwarfing last spring's tax rebates and rivaling drastic government actions to fight the Great Depression.

The emerging plan is blend of new jobs, middle-class tax relief and expanded aid for the poor and the unemployed, congressional officials said Wednesday.

Obama has not settled on a grand total, and the final figure could be smaller. But after con-

sulting with outside economists of all political stripes, his advisers have begun telling Congress the stimulus should be bigger than the \$600 billion initially envisioned, the officials said.

Obama is promoting a recovery plan that would feature spending on roads and other infrastructure projects, energy-efficient government buildings, new and renovated schools and environmentally friendly technologies. There would also be some form of tax relief, according to the Obama team, which is well aware of the political difficulty of pushing such a large

package through Congress, even in a time of recession. Any tax cuts would be aimed at middle- and lower-income taxpayers, and aides have said there would be no tax increases for wealthy Americans.

While some economists consulted by Obama's team recommended spending of up to \$1 trillion over two years, a more likely figure seems to be \$850 billion. There is concern that a package that looks too large could worry fi-

nancial markets, and the incoming economic team also wants to signal fiscal restraint.

In addition to spending on roads, bridges and similar construction projects, Obama is expected to seek additional funds for numerous programs that experience increased demand when joblessness rises, one Democratic official said.

Among those programs are food stamps and other nutrition programs, health insurance, un-



Obama

employment insurance and job training programs.

Obama advisers, including Christina Romer and Lawrence Summers, have been contacting economists from across the political spectrum in search of advice as they assemble a spending plan that would meet Obama's goal of preserving or creating 2.5 mil-

lion jobs over two years.

Among those whose opinions Obama sought were Lawrence B. Lindsey, a top economic adviser to President George W. Bush during his first term, and Harvard professor Martin Feldstein, an informal adviser to John McCain and the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Ronald Reagan.

## White House pressed from right and left on car rescue

WASHINGTON (AP)—Conservative Republicans admonished the White House Tuesday not to use bank-bailout billions to rescue distressed U.S. automakers, and a key Democrat demanded the government get veto power over the companies' business decisions as a condition of any aid.

The Bush administration said it was still evaluating options and suggested any deal would require major concessions by all sides. Complicating its task, lawmakers in both parties—having failed in their efforts to push a \$14 billion auto rescue through a bailout-weary Congress—were pressing for an array of terms and conditions they said should be part of any Plan B.

"We are not going to be rushed into it," presidential press secretary Dana Perino declared.

Only a day earlier, President George W. Bush suggested that a rescue package would come sooner rather than later. "An abrupt bankruptcy for autos could be devastating for the

economy," Bush said on Monday. "This will not be a long process because of the economic fragility of the autos."

Still, conservative Republican lawmakers, many from Southern states that are home to Japanese auto plants, wrote to Bush asking him not to use one of the most readily available pots of money—the \$700 billion Wall Street rescue fund—to help the U.S. carmakers.

And the White House and Treasury Department were in talks with Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., who has been pressing for big union concessions in exchange for rescue money, on the terms and structure of a possible bailout, said a senior GOP congressional aide.

Corker came close last week to striking a deal with the United Auto Workers union for a \$14 billion bill that would have forced the carmakers to bring their wages and benefits in line with those of Japanese auto companies in the U.S. by a specific date in 2009.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Attorney general takes himself out of Madoff probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—The fraud investigation of Wall Street money manager Bernard L. Madoff took unusual twists Wednesday as the U.S. attorney general removed himself and the Securities and Exchange Commission looked into the relationship between Madoff's niece and a former SEC attorney who reviewed Madoff's business. The developments reflect growing criticism that Wall Street and regulators in Washington have grown too close. Madoff himself has boasted of his ties to the SEC. The question of Madoff's connection to regulators goes to the heart of the investigation of the alleged \$50 billion fraud, SEC Chairman Christopher Cox told reporters. Congress jumped into the Madoff scandal, too. The chairman of the House capital markets subcommittee, Rep. Paul Kanjorski, D-Pa., announced an inquiry that will begin early next month into what may be the biggest Ponzi scheme of all

time and how the government failed to detect it.

#### Crude prices tumble despite record OPEC cuts

ORAN, Algeria (AP)—Here's how bad things are for OPEC these days: It announced its largest-ever production cut Wednesday and oil prices promptly slumped to \$40 a barrel, the lowest level in more than four years. Ministers of the 13-nation oil cartel were trying to shock moribund markets into life by slashing output 2.2 million barrels a day, more than double two recent production cuts. "I hope we surprised you," said OPEC President Chakib Khelil when asked whether the move would send prices upward. Instead the markets yawned and there appeared to be more good news for consumers—at least for the short term. Although declining gasoline prices have begun to edge up after falling from an average of \$4.11 a gallon in July to a low of \$1.65 on Friday, analysts believe oil's decline could send them even lower.

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# Nation

## Attorney: Ill. governor won't fill Senate vacancy

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.** (AP)—The Illinois Supreme Court on Wednesday denied an effort to remove Gov. Rod Blagojevich, rejecting what could have been the quickest way to force the Democrat from office. Blagojevich's lawyer, meanwhile, said the governor would not appoint someone to fill Barack Obama's vacant U.S. Senate seat, potentially answering one of the key questions surrounding the scandal.

"Harry Reid said that they're not going to accept anybody he picks," said attorney Ed Genson, referring to the Senate majority leader. "Why would he do that?"

The state court's ruling came as Genson was challenging the strength of the corruption case against Blagojevich before a

panel of lawmakers considering whether to recommend impeachment.

Genson said the wiretaps that ensnared his client amounted to all talk and no action.

"It's just people jabbering," Genson told the House panel.

Genson attacked the impeachment proceedings on multiple fronts Wednesday, assailing the wiretaps, questioning the committee's impartiality and complaining that the panel had not given the governor enough time to mount a defense.

Lawmakers rejected all of Genson's complaints, saying the committee has broad power to review anything related to the governor's performance. They said Genson's courtroom-style objections won't change the panel's approach.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Kennedy says publicly she wants Senate seat

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** (AP)—Caroline Kennedy finally made public her desire to carry on her famous family's legacy, reaching out to a handful of mayors and some political leaders Wednesday in a carefully choreographed effort to win support for her quest to succeed Hillary Rodham Clinton in the U.S. Senate. The daughter of President John F. Kennedy was driven across the state along the main east-west road, hitting three of its four biggest cities to talk to elected officials and Democratic party power brokers alike. She bypassed Albany, the state capital and seat of political power. In Rochester, Kennedy stuck closely to a tightly controlled script but started to sound themes apparently designed to assuage those who question her readiness for a high-profile elected office. "I just hope everybody understands that it is not a campaign but that I have had a lifelong devotion to public service," she said. "I've written books on the constitution and the importance of individual participation. I think I really could help bring change to Washington."

#### US official: Russians intend to test Obama on arms

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Russian government is likely to "test the mettle" of Barack Obama and his administration by taking a tougher stance against U.S. missile defenses, a senior State Department official said Wednesday. John Rood, the department's top arms control official, told reporters he believes the Russians are waiting to size up the Obama administration before Moscow ad-

vances its position on disputed arms issues. In discussing the state of Russian opposition to U.S. missile defense bases in Poland and the Czech Republic, Rood said it appears that Moscow has "paused" in anticipation of a new national security approach in Washington. "My assessment is that the Russians intend to test the mettle of the new administration and the new president," he said. "The future will show how the new administration chooses to answer that challenge." Asked to elaborate, he said, "I think missile defense and other subjects will be among those that the Russians intend to determine what the new administration's posture will be." He said he reached this conclusion on the basis of an impression gained during talks in Moscow on Monday rather than from explicit Russian statements.

#### Ga. judge jails Muslim woman over head scarf

**ATLANTA** (AP)—A Muslim woman arrested for refusing to take off her head scarf at a courthouse security checkpoint said Wednesday that she felt her human and civil rights were violated. A judge ordered Lisa Valentine, 40, to serve 10 days in jail for contempt of court, said police in Douglasville, a city of about 20,000 people on Atlanta's west suburban outskirts. Valentine violated a court policy that prohibits people from wearing any headgear in court, police said after they arrested her Tuesday. Kelley Jackson, a spokeswoman for Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker, said state law doesn't permit or prohibit head scarfs. "It's at the discretion of the judge and the sheriffs and is up to the security officers in the court house to enforce their decision," she said.

## Bush: I didn't compromise soul to be popular

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President George W. Bush knows he's unpopular. But here's what matters, he says: "I didn't compromise my soul to be a popular guy." In a wide-ranging interview with Fox News Channel, Bush also praised the national security team assembled by President-elect Barack Obama, offered hope to U.S. automakers seeking government assistance and said the people of Illinois will have to sort out allegations that Gov. Rod Blagojevich sought kickbacks in choosing a successor for Obama's Senate seat.

Bush said presidents fail when

they make decisions based on opinion polls.

"Look, everybody likes to be popular," said Bush.

"What do you expect? We've got a major economic problem and I'm the president during the major economic problem. I mean, do people approve of the economy? No. I don't approve of the economy. ... I've been a war-time president. I've dealt with two economic recessions now. I've had, hell, a lot of serious challenges. What matters to me

is I didn't compromise my soul to be a popular guy."

An Associated Press-GFK poll last week showed just 28 percent of the public approving of the job Bush is doing, about where he has been all fall. Among Republicans, 54 percent approve, a low figure from members of a president's own political party.

Bush said he didn't think he would be viewed as the 21st century's Herbert Hoover, who was president during the Great Depression. He said he



worked to keep the economy from collapsing.

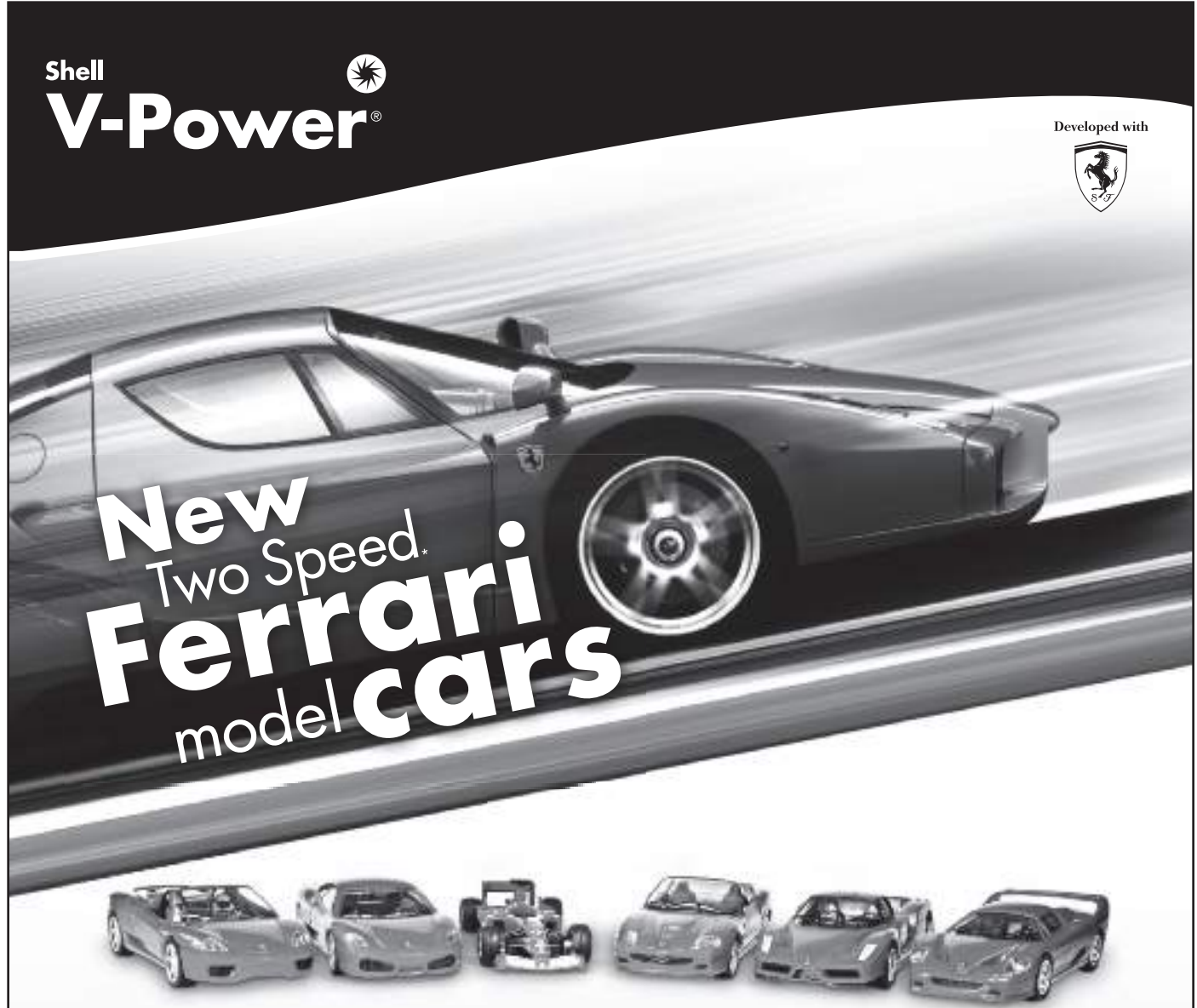
"I'm a free market guy," Bush said. "But I'm not going to let this economy crater in order to preserve the free market system. So we made a lot of very strong moves and it's been painful for a lot of people, particularly because, you know, this—the excesses of the past have caused a lot of folks to hurt when it comes to, like, their 401(k)'s or, you know, their jobs."

He said his administration is continuing to look at options for helping the Big Three automakers and that it needs to get done "relatively soon."



Bush



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# Asia

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### RP cargo ship sinks, killing 1; authorities find bodies of 14 killed in ferry accident

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A cargo ship loaded with cement

sank in the central Philippines, killing one crew member, as rescuers recovered the bodies of 14 people who died when a ferry capsized earlier this week, the coast guard said Wednesday. *Maria*

*Lourdes*, a 639-ton cargo ship loaded with bags of cement, sent a distress call after its engine failed Tuesday afternoon, and sank hours later off Caluya island in Antique province, coast guard

regional chief, Cmdr. Harold Harder said. Rough waves were reported at the time of the sinking, he said. He said the ship's chief engineer drowned and 19 others were rescued and brought to Caluya. Coast guard and navy ships, meanwhile, found 14 more bodies about six miles (10 kilometers) from where an inter-island ferry capsized after being battered by huge waves Sunday off northeastern Cagayan province, drowning 44 people, police said.

### Pakistan demands India provide Mumbai evidence

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan sought to put some of the pressure over the Mumbai bloodshed on India, demanding Wednesday that its neighbor hand over "concrete evidence" against Pakistani citizens and groups allegedly involved in the terror attack. Officials have been saying for days that they need evidence to try suspects, but there has no sign India would provide any of its findings soon. The squabble epitomizes the distrust between the nuclear-armed countries, which have fought three wars in six decades.

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R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-023F	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	29549	RED	ACE-780	14,999	
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	15,999	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	

## GM CARS

R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	<del>9,599</del>	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	<del>10,999</del>	9,499

## LEXUS

U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	11,399	
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	<del>29,999</del>	26,899

## TOYOTA TRUCKS

R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	<del>11,899</del>	10,599
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## OTHER CARS & TRUCKS

U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	<del>8,999</del>	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	<del>8,999</del>	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	<del>10,999</del>	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	<del>16,799</del>	15,299
U08-038T	2001	NISSAN MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENNIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	BEIGE	ABP-583	<del>7,999</del>	4,899

## GM VAN

R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
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## SPORT UTILITY

U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	<del>13,699</del>	12,799
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2X4X14 - \$5.00	2X4X14 - \$7.70
2X4X16 - \$5.58	2X4X16 - \$8.70
2X4X18 - \$6.30	2X4X18 - \$9.70
2X4X20 - \$6.85	2X4X20 - \$10.70
2X6X12 - \$6.90	2X6X12 - \$10.20
2X6X14 - \$7.90	2X6X14 - \$12.20
2X6X16 - \$8.90	2X6X16 - \$14.20
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# World

## Iraqi parliament in turmoil over fate of shoe tosser

BAGHDAD (AP)—Chaos erupted in Iraq's parliament Wednesday over the jailing of a reporter who threw his shoes at President George W. Bush, with lawmakers loyal to a radical anti-American cleric demanding his freedom. The parliament speaker responded by threatening to resign.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi, a correspondent for an Iraqi-owned television station based in Cairo, Egypt, had been expected to appear Wednesday before an investigative judge at Iraq's main court as a first step in a complex legal process that could end in a criminal trial.

Instead, the judge visited him in his jail cell and the family was told to return to the court in eight days, according to the journalist's brother, Dhargham al-Zeidi.

"That means my brother was severely beaten and they fear that his appearance could trigger anger at the court,"

he said.

However, Iraqi officials and another brother have denied that the journalist suffered severe injuries after he was wrestled to the floor when he hurled one shoe and then the other from close range at Bush during a news conference Sunday in Baghdad. Bush deftly ducked out of the way both times.

Al-Zeidi could face two years imprisonment for insulting a foreign leader. When he threw the shoes, he shouted at Bush in Arabic, "This is your farewell kiss, you dog! This is from the widows, the orphans and those who were killed in Iraq."

His act of defiance won the obscure television reporter hero status in Iraq and throughout the Muslim world, much of which holds Bush personally responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Iraqis since the invasion.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Russian treason bill could target Kremlin critics

MOSCOW (AP)—Under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, people who fraternized with foreigners or criticized the Kremlin were "enemies of the people" and sent to the gulag. Now there's new legislation backed by Vladimir Putin's government that human rights activists say could throw Russia back to the days of the Great Terror. The legislation, outspoken government critic and rights activist Lev Ponomarev charged Wednesday, creates "a base for a totalitarian state." Government supporters and Kremlin-allied lawmakers said the bill—submitted to the Kremlin-friendly parliament last week—will tighten up current law. Supporters say prosecutors often have trouble gaining convictions because of ambiguities in the definition of state treason. The bill would add non-governmental organizations based anywhere in the world that have an office in Russia to the list of banned recipients of state secrets. The government has repeatedly accused foreign spy agencies of using NGOs as a cover to foment dissent. Critics warned the loose wording will give authorities ample leeway to prosecute those who cooperate with international rights groups.

found little support from other regional leaders. Morales made the demand during a summit of Latin American and Caribbean leaders in this beach resort in northeastern Brazil. "I want to make a proposal that many are not going to like: Set a time limit for the new U.S. government to lift the economic blockade" against Cuba, Morales said, using the tough term for U.S. sanctions that Cuba and its allies use. "If the new government doesn't lift the economic blockage, we are going to lift our ambassadors," said Morales, who expelled the U.S. ambassador to Bolivia in September over a different issue, accusing him of siding with violent opposition protests.

### Greek youths hang protest banners from Acropolis

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Protesters hung giant banners off the Acropolis Wednesday calling for mass demonstrations across Europe, heaping embarrassment on a government reeling from Greece's worst riots in decades sparked by the police shooting of a teenager. The two pink banners were unfurled over the walls of the ancient citadel that towers above central Athens and could be seen for miles around. One bore the word "Resistance" in large black letters in Greek, English, Spanish and German. The other called for demonstrations throughout the continent Thursday, when students plan major marches in Athens and Greece's second largest city of Thessaloniki to protest the death of 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoriou, killed in a police shooting on Dec. 6.

### Bolivia: Expel all US ambassadors

COSTA DO SAUIPE, Brazil (AP)—Latin American nations should expel U.S. ambassadors until the United States lifts its embargo on Cuba, Bolivian President Evo Morales said Wednesday. But his remarks



# Off The Wall

## Big cat bites Santa during a photo shoot

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)**—Santa Claus posed with a very large kitty on his lap—and now, unfortunately, he might need rabies shots. Jonathan Bebbington was playing the jolly old elf during a Santa Paws photo event at a PetsMart store when he

was bitten Sunday on the wrist and hand. The event was to raise money for Penny Angel's Beagle Rescue group.

The cat and owner disappeared after the incident. At least one person thought it was a bobcat, said Joan Kerr, presi-

dent of Penny Angel's.

"It had absolutely huge paws, like 3 inches around," Kerr said.

The cat, named "Benny," appeared terrified because dogs were nearby, Bebbington, 47, told The Press of Atlantic City.

"It had very powerful jaws and

big teeth," he said, estimating the cat weighed about 30 pounds.

The woman who brought it to the store told people there she bought the cat from a breeder in Wyoming for \$1,500.

"Her last words were, 'I have a permit and the cat has all his

vaccines,'" Bebbington said.

Unless the owner produces vaccination records, Bebbington will have to receive rabies shots starting Thursday as a precaution. He's already had a tetanus shot.

"I don't want anything to happen to the cat," he said. "It's

a beautiful animal and was naturally scared."

Rabies shots are not as bad as they used to be, when they were a long ordeal of dreaded, painful shots in the abdomen. They now consist of a shorter series of shots in the arm.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Santa gets parking ticket while delivering toys

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Santa Claus has added a New York City traffic agent to his naughty list after she gave him a ticket while delivering gifts to children. Chip Cafiero says he'll fight the \$115 ticket he received in Brooklyn on Black Friday when he was dressed as Santa. The 60-year-old retired schoolteacher was riding a horse-drawn carriage and handing out toys and candy canes. An SUV carrying the toys and protecting the horse from traffic was double parked next to him. Santa says he yelled "Ho! Ho! Ho!" to get the traffic agent's attention because the SUV wasn't blocking traffic. But in his words, "This grinch just went ahead and fined me." Local politician Martin Golden calls the parking ticket "ridiculous." Police won't comment on it.

#### Iowa town's roads well seasoned

**ANKENY, Iowa (AP)**—Slush has never smelled so spicy. City crews in the Des Moines suburb of Ankeny are using garlic salt to melt snow and ice on streets from Tuesday's storm. The salt was donated by Tone Brothers Inc., a top spice producer headquartered in Ankeny. Public Works Administrator Al Olson said the company donated 18,000 pounds of garlic salt to use on its 400 miles of roads. Olson doesn't have details, but he said the salt would have ended up in the landfill, so the company donated it. A telephone call Wednesday to Tone Brothers wasn't immediately returned. Olson said the city mixed the garlic salt with regular road salt and it works fine. He said some road workers say it makes them hungry, but Olson doesn't recommend it to spice up lunch or dinner.

#### Family pushes their dog as next Illinois governor

**UNDATED (AP)**—Questions have been dogging Illinois ever since Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested last week on corruption charges. Now a California couple says the answer to all the state's woes may, in fact, be a dog. Their dog, Michael Sunday and his family have launched an Internet campaign touting their 14-year-old border collie named

Scuba as the next governor of the state. Sunday wonders if Scuba—who because she's deaf certainly wouldn't hear calls for her to step down—wouldn't do any worse than Blagojevich. Sunday really doesn't think Scuba has a shot. But the way he sees it—Scuba—who also has trouble seeing because of cataracts—couldn't do any worse than Blagojevich.

#### 1,500 parakeets rescued from 2-room apartment

**BERLIN (AP)**—Berlin officials said they have rescued 1,500 parakeets from a two-room apartment. City veterinarian Margit Platzer said the birds were flying freely around the apartment, which was "littered with feces, feathers and leftover food." Platzer said it took her team more than seven hours on Tuesday to catch all the birds with nets. The birds were taken Wednesday to animal shelters in Berlin and elsewhere because there was not enough room for them at facilities in the capital. Local media reported, without citing sources, that the owner gradually bought and bred the birds until his apartment was full, and that neighbors had complained about the noise and smell. The retired man, who was not identified, could face charges for endangering the animals' safety and health.

#### Woman's 3-legged cat returns after 7-week search

**CINCINNATI (AP)**—A Cincinnati area woman has again found Hope, her three-legged cat with that name whose disappearance led to an extensive search. Hope's owner, Norma Meece, had hired a pet detective as part of a nearly seven-week search costing more than \$500 dollars after the cat disappeared from Meece's home in suburban Green Township. Pictures of the missing pet were plastered all over the neighborhood, and the pet detective spent hours looking inside sheds and under porches with the help of a bloodhound. Meece said Hope turned up Sunday in a humane trap set near her home. The cat is a former stray whose left front leg had been amputated. Meece said Hope appears happy to be home but looks a bit thin and has some scrapes on her nose.

#### Fast-food worker laughs, tells robber to get a job

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)**—A San Antonio fast-food restaurant cashier laughed at a robbery sus-

pect and told him to get a job if he wanted money during a failed holdup on Tuesday evening. Police said the suspect approached the worker and demanded money, but the cashier laughed and

apparently didn't realize the man was trying to hold up the place. The suspect then allegedly pulled out a box cutter and demanded the cashier's wallet. The employee complied, but had no money

in his billfold. The suspect fled, but was caught by police who responded to the robbery call. San Antonio police said the suspect is expected to be charged with aggravated robbery.

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# Science & Technology

## Intel inside Macs opens the door to Windows

By **ROB PEGORARO**  
THE WASHINGTON POST

When Apple announced in 2005

that it would switch to Intel processors in its Macs, it never mentioned one of the biggest improvements this shift would bring.

Intel's chips have been faster and more efficient—but they've also allowed Macs to run Windows as well as, or better than, any PC.

The usual way to do this is with the Boot Camp software Apple includes with the latest version of Mac OS X, which will carve off a partition from your hard drive, help you install a copy of Windows XP or Vista, and then let you choose which operating system to run each time your Mac boots up.

But with the right “virtualization” software, you don't have to choose: Windows can be just another window on the Mac desktop.

Mac users now have three options for this job, all recently updated: VMware's Fusion 2.0 (vmware.com/products/fusion) and Parallels' Parallels Desktop 4 (parallels.com/desktop), both \$79.99, and Sun Microsystems' free-for-personal-use VirtualBox 2.0 (virtualbox.org).

All of these programs require a Mac with an Intel processor, the faster the better. They also all recommend or require a gigabyte of memory, but you'll be a lot happier with the results if you have 2 GB or more.

All three involve the same basic setup. After installing the virtualization program, you create a “virtual machine”—a special file that, from the inside, looks like a PC's hard drive—and install Windows itself. (Or you can install Linux or another operating system, but that can be trickier.) Once you boot up that copy of Windows, they prompt you to install a helper program that makes Windows feel more at home inside a Mac and allows you to move data between Mac OS X and Windows.

All three programs ran copies of Windows XP and Vista on a pair of MacBook laptops (one dating to this summer, one the newer model introduced this fall) at an impressive speed;

windows and menus snapped open and non-graphics-intensive programs launched about as briskly as you'd expect on any random PC.

Instead, most of their differences surfaced at the first and last steps of that setup routine. Compared to the free VirtualBox, Fusion and Parallels provide more ways to put a copy of Windows on a Mac and make it far easier to swap files between the two operating systems.

Both Fusion and Parallels not only let you install a fresh copy of Windows, but can run—without rebooting—a copy of Windows installed earlier via Boot Camp. They can also run virtual machines created with other virtualization programs, although this can require an intimidating degree of fiddling with file-import settings.

In addition, Fusion and Parallels can migrate a copy of Windows from a “real” PC. Fusion allowed me to move over a Windows XP installation on an external hard drive, while Parallels required a slower transfer over a local network. Both migrations yielded virtual-machine files that required extra processing on arrival, but this added step took at least an hour longer in Parallels.

Fusion and Parallels each made almost all of a Mac's components usable inside Windows; for example, a MacBook's iSight webcam worked correctly in the Skype Internet-calling program. But this hardware help comes to a halt when you start playing with rich, 3D graphics. Neither program can run nearly as many games as Boot Camp, and neither could display Windows Vista's transparent Aero interface.

These two virtualization programs also let you drag and drop files from Mac folders to

Windows directories and move CDs or USB flash drives from Mac to Windows environments with a click of a toolbar icon.

Parallels, however, goes further in melding these two worlds—maybe too far. It normally runs in a “Coherence” mode that overlaps Mac and Windows parts on top of each other, leaving the Windows taskbar floating on top of Mac OS X's Dock, with the Windows Start menu floating off to one side. The results looked, well, incoherent. Parallels also maps your Mac home folders to the equivalent Windows user directories so that you see the same set of files in each place, which was also confusing at first.

VirtualBox does much less than either Fusion or Parallels. This jargon-rich application essentially requires you to pay in time or expertise instead of money as you work around issues such as its failure to enable audio and USB support by default and its painfully wonky behavior with flash drives and CDs. Some of VirtualBox's problems can only be fixed by an improved release: It doesn't let you drag and drop files from Mac to PC, its shared-folders option is horribly awkward to set up, and it couldn't play a high-definition QuickTime video without stuttering.

But VirtualBox did use less memory than the others, and it is, of course, free. It could suffice if you only need to run one or two Windows programs—a likely scenario for many Windows-to-Mac switchers.

The most likely scenario, however, may be this: A Windows user buys a Mac and doesn't plan to run any more Windows programs, but can sleep better at night knowing this option exists, just in case things ever change.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
State Rehabilitation Council  
FY 09 1st General Membership Meeting  
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670) 322-6537 FAX: (670) 322-6536  
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Councils' FY 09 1st General Membership Meeting which was originally scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2008, has been **rescheduled for Friday, December 19, 2008** at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort Hotel at 10:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### AGENDA

- I. Preliminaries
  - A. Roll Call
  - B. Review & Adoption of Agenda
  - C. Review & Adoption of 6/25/2008 Minutes
- II. Reports
  - A. OVR Director
  - B. SRC Chairman
- III. Old Business
  - A. Vacancy Appointments Status
- IV. New Business
  - A. Election of Officers
  - B. Committee Chair Appointments
  - C. Approval of 2009 SRC Resource Plan
- V. Consumer Forum
- VI. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 3226537(voice) or 322-6449(ITY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Councii Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Jesus Elameto  
SRC Vice-Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).



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### FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MOWING, TRIMMING AND CLEANING OF PROPERTY GROUNDS And PERIMETER FENCE AND DITCH GRASS CUTTING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for (A) Mowing of grass, trimming of flowers, bushes and trees and cleaning of the airport grounds and (B) Perimeter Fence and Ditch Grass Cutting. The sealed cost proposals in duplicates are due by **4:30 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2008** at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The scope of work and contract documents shall be ready for pick up at the above said office by Monday, December 1, 2008.

Proposers may submit for both Part A and Part B, or proposers may submit for only one part, either A or B if desired. Part A is the first project and is labeled “SIA Mowing, Trimming and Cleaning of Property Grounds.” Part B is the second project and is labeled “SIA Perimeter Fence and Ditch Grass Cutting.”

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at the CPA Airport Conference. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory to be considered for the services.

Please make arrangements with the Airport Manager at telephone number 664-3500 for a site visit to better understand the scope of work and to identify the areas depicted on the sketch.

Along with your proposal, the submission of insurance coverage, company past performance, experience, a list of equipment and most recent financial statement reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant, are required to completely determine the company's capability to perform the work. The successful proposer shall enter into an agreement with CPA for a one-year term which is renewable thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date for another year or as determined by CPA. The renewal of agreement shall be contingent upon CPA's satisfaction of the company's performance and the availability of funding.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its sole decision to do so, is in its best interest.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.  
Executive Director

Date: November 26, 2008



### The House of Representatives

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### NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: December 16, 2008

CONTACT: Office of Representative Rosemond B. Santos  
Telephone: (670) 664-8965  
Facsimile: (670) 664-8966

The date scheduled for the public hearing of the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on December 16, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the House of Representatives' Chamber is hereby rescheduled to Monday, December 22, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the House of Representatives' Chamber.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive testimonies on the following legislations:

1. House Bill No. 16-147: "Juvenile Interrogation"
2. House Bill No. 16-178: "Juvenile Justice Act of 2008."

The following witnesses are requested to be present:

1. Mr. Gregory Baka, Attorney General
2. Honorable Robert Naraja, Superior Court
3. Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, Supreme Court
4. Mr. Adam C. Hardwicke, Public Defender
5. Mr. Silvio S. Ada, DYS
6. Ms. Maya B. Kara, CNMI Bar Association
7. Secretary Joseph P. Villagomez, Department of Public Health
8. Ms. Lucy Blanco-Maratita, Board of Education
9. Mr. James Rayphand, NMPASI
10. Mr. Bruce Mailman, Attorney At Law
11. Ms. Heather L. Kennedy, Law Revision Commission

1. House Bill No. 16-157: "The Incompetency Determination Act of 2008"
2. House Bill No. 16-158: "The Guardianship Act of 2008"

The following witnesses are requested to be present:

1. Honorable Robert Naraja, Superior Court
2. Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, Supreme Court
3. Mr. Gregory Baka, Attorney General
4. Ms. Maya B. Kara, CNMI Bar Association
5. Mr. James Rayphand, NMPASI

Witnesses are requested to submit written testimony to the Committee on or before December 12, 2008.

Interested Members of the General Public are also welcome to submit written or oral testimony.

/s/ Rosemond B. Santos  
Chair

xc: SAPLR  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Members, House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations  
Media

### HELP FILE

By **ROB PEGORARO**  
THE WASHINGTON POST

**Q. In the Windows Vista computer at home, there's a folder that shows all recently changed files. We have people visiting frequently, and we don't want it to be too easy for them to see our documents, pictures and so on.**

**A.** This folder, one of a handful that Vista parks in the “Favorite Links” sidebar of a desktop window, is easy to remove: drag it to the Recycle Bin.

You also can open the Links folder in your user directory (the one with your Documents, Music and Pictures folders) to delete more than one folder at once. To add a folder to this list, drag it to that folder or the sidebar and Vista will create a shortcut for you.

You might think all this would be obvious—except that in Windows XP, the sidebar showing common tasks and “Other Places” doesn't allow simple editing. So an XP veteran could be forgiven for thinking that Vista's sidebar, which takes up the same spot in a window, is no

more flexible.

To get back to the original question: People who would poke around your computer to look for interesting files also might like to rifle through the silverware and look through your mail. Maybe you shouldn't invite them over.

■ ■ ■

**Q. How can I stop iPhoto from opening every time I sync my iPhone with my Mac? I don't use the camera on the phone all that much.**

**A.** The only fix is to tell iPhoto not to open when a camera is plugged into the Mac—not only an iPhone, but any camera. In iPhoto's Preferences window, change the “Connecting camera opens” menu from “iPhoto” to “No application.”

Assuming you plug in your iPhone more often than your camera, this may not be too bad. You'll just need to remember to launch iPhoto on your own when you want to import photos; once it's up and running, it will see the camera and offer to grab your pictures.





**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**  
 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
 Saipan, MP 96950



**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**DPW09-IFB-005**

**SUPPLY, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER PERIMETER (SECURITY) FENCE AND GUARD BOOTHS**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Commonwealth Health Center Perimeter (Security) Fence and Guard Booths, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after December 19, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill. .

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC 70-30.3. Local Preference is not available per grant conditions Homeland Security Grant.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on January 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Commonwealth Health Center Conference Room. Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 16, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB-005**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 22, 2009, and must be received no later than February 2, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 5, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on January 27, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI. The successful bidder must submit an ICC with such bonds.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US\$100.00) per working day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG  
 Secretary of Public Works

/s/ PATRICK J. TENORIO  
 Special Assistant, Homeland Security

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
 Director, Procurement & Supply

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF  
 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT/  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
 KALABERA CAVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
 MARPI, SAIPAN**

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Public Works in conjunction with CRM, DPL, DEQ, HPO and FWL are making available for public review and comment a Draft Environmental Assessment Report (DEAR) prepared for the proposed Kalabera Cave Development Project proposed by the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Marianas Visitors Authority is the project sponsor. The project is federally funded by the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs for Capital Improvement Projects under Section 118 of Public Law 104-134, and is pursuant to Article XIV Section 3 of the NMI Constitution including the NMI Historic Preservation Act of 1982, Public Law 3-39.

The project is designed to meet or exceed the requirements of local and federal laws, and construction includes car and bus parking, pathway, resting house, house of prayer, pictograph Interpretive house, and cave interior lighting.

An Environmental Assessment Report (EAR), which is a written document that discusses the potential environmental effects of the project and feasible mitigation measures to reduce those effects to less-than-significant levels, is proposed for certification by the Commonwealth pursuant to the NEP A and NHP A Guidelines. Possible environmental impacts of this project include impacts upon or related to aesthetics, transportation, air quality, noise, cultural and historical resources, biological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, hazardous materials, and public utilities and service systems. Responsible and trustee agencies and those who have already expressed an interest in this matter will automatically receive a copy of the Draft EAR; for other interested persons, copies of the Draft EAR may be requested from the Department of Public Works at the address and telephone number given below or from Herman B. Cabrera & Associates at the address and telephone number given below. The 30-day review period for the Draft EAR is from December 9 to January 9, 2009. During this period, comments may be submitted to the Department of Public Works at the address given below, in either writing or by e-mail, or comments may be made during the public hearing, the date and location of which is described below.

Said public hearing where all interested members of the public may attend and be heard will be held on Wednesday, the 31st day of December 2008, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Gregorio Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria in San Roque, Saipan. This hearing will be for acceptance of public comments on the Draft EAR by DPW staff or staff from Herman B. Cabrera & Associates. No decision regarding the project or certification of the EAR will be made at this meeting. A final decision on this project will be made at a future date at a meeting of the Department of Public Works, who would also consider certification of the EAR at that time. All persons interested in the matter may appear and be heard at this meeting.

Copies of the Draft EAR in spiral bound form may be obtained in person from: Department of Public Works  
 Technical Service Division,  
 Joeten Building, 2nd Floor,  
 San Jose Village, Saipan, MP 96950.  
 Tel: 670-234-9828/38

and

Herman B. Cabrera & Associates  
 P.O. Box 501421 Garapan  
 Village Saipan, MP 96950  
 Attn: Herman B. Cabrera, AIA President  
 E-Mail: [hbcabrera@gmail.com](mailto:hbcabrera@gmail.com)  
 Tel: 670-234-1778  
 A copy will be charged at the nominal rate of \$0.20 per sheet.

A copy of the document may also be viewed at:

Joeten Kiyu Public Library  
 Susupe Saipan, MP 96950

Comments on the Draft EAR should be submitted to the Department of Public Works or to Herman B. Cabrera & Associates at the e-mail address or his address above. Comments on the Draft EAR must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 9, 2009.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**State Board of Education**  
**Public School System**  
 P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**RFP 09-005**

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Supply of Diesel, Unleaded Gasoline, Lubricating Oil, and Fluids for its School Bus and Vehicle Fleets.**

Detailed information on the scope of work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-005" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than January 07, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-005, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and three (3) copies. Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: [babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp](mailto:babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp).

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

**/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**  
**Commissioner of Education**

**/S/ Juan D. Babauta**  
**Acting, P&S Officer**



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**State Board of Education**  
**Public School System**  
 P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



**Invitation For Bid**  
**IFB 09-005**

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Desktop Computer Systems and Accessories for Hopwood Jr. High School (HJHS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-005" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **January 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-005" CONFIDENTIAL — Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: [babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp](mailto:babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp).

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

**/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**  
**Commissioner of Education**

**/S/ Juan D. Babauta**  
**Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer**



Life & Style

Shifts in time are on the ‘Button’

By REED JOHNSON  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**HOLLYWOOD**—In “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,” time doesn’t just slip away. It surges like a tsunami, swamping cities and washing aside human lives like so much Mississippi Delta topsoil. It rolls backward and forward like a movie projector, unspooling the tale of a man whose peculiar fate is to age in reverse, starting his life as a wrinkled old codger and ending it as a newborn babe.

So powerful is time’s presence in the film that it almost becomes a character, as does the sepia-toned city of New Orleans, where much of the action takes place. Thoughts about time and mortality left a deep mark on many of those connected with the project, including director David Fincher, screenwriter Eric Roth, producer Kathleen Kennedy and Brad Pitt, who stars in the title role.

“It’s not about a life lived forward or backward; it’s about a life lived well,” says Kennedy, who devoted many years of her life to bringing “Benjamin Button” to the screen over a Greek chorus of studio skepticism. “It forces you to confront the choices that you’ve made along the way.”

Loosely based on a fable-like 1922 short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the Paramount/Warner Bros. co-production, slated to

open Christmas Day, is first and foremost an epic romance about star-crossed lovers whose overlap in each others’ lives is achingly brief. (Warning: spoilers ahead.)

Like a man with a medieval spell upon him, Benjamin starts his life at age 80 on Armistice Day, 1918, and goes on to live

a strapping seaman to a dashing world adventurer able to win the heart of his longtime flame, Daisy Fuller (Cate Blanchett), a ballerina who first meets Benjamin when she’s a precocious child and he’s a virginal elder.

Playing an American Everyman with a grave-to-cradle character arc sounds daunting. But People magazine’s two-time “Sexiest Man Alive” says he was fascinated to see himself stooped and shriveled—with the aid of several diminutive body doubles and some sophisticated CGI effects.

“I was actually quite intrigued to see where it might be heading,” Pitt says, adding that he “got to have some say” in exactly how decrepit he would appear on screen.

“I doubt time and gravity will be as kind as I was to myself,” he says with a smile. “It just made me think about the ticking clock. Am I in mid-life? Am I halfway there? ... Do I have 10 years, five years? And so what are those moments going to be that I do know I have, which is now?”

Fincher, who previously teamed with Pitt on the crime thriller “Se7en” and the cult film “Fight Club,” sees Benjamin as a “witness” who is “purely present” in every moment of his long life. The key to the strength of Pitt’s performance, he believes, is that the actor taps into that same quality.

“If you go with (the movie), I think the reason that you go with it is because, if you can imagine such a thing, I think Brad somehow manages to be an Everyman, which is on the face of it just a ludicrous notion,” Fincher says, alluding to Pitt’s ubiquitous mass-media persona. “It’s a beautiful performance.”

Kennedy says that when she, Fincher and Roth were mapping out the movie, they began talking about common experiences: raising children, losing loved ones. When he began writing the film, Roth’s mother was dying and during rewriting his father passed away, all of which shaped the film.

Audiences familiar with Fincher’s past work might be

PITT FILE

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

More often noted for his good looks and personal life, Brad Pitt’s acting abilities often get overshadowed. A few awards groups, though, haven’t let him slip under the radar.

Oscar

**1996:** Nominated for supporting actor for “Twelve Monkeys”

Golden Globes

**2007:** Nominated for supporting actor for “Babel.”

**1996:** Won supporting actor for “Twelve Monkeys.”

**1995:** Nominated for lead actor for “Legends of the Fall.”

People’s Choice

**2008:** Won favorite on-screen matchup (with George Clooney) for “Ocean’s Thirteen.”

**2006:** Won favorite leading man.

**2005:** Won favorite leading man

through many of the highs and lows of the so-called American Century. During the course of the film, Pitt is transformed from a creaky octogenarian to



Brad Pitt stars in the film “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.”

LOS ANGELES TIMES

FINCHER FILE

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

With such films to his credit as “Se7en,” “Fight Club,” “Panic Room” and “Zodiac,” David Fincher often is associated with disturbing themes and graphic images. But with “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button,” he shows his tender side, with an unexpected delicateness of feeling.

Some of Fincher’s recent awards notice:

Directors Guild of America

**2004:** Won for outstanding achievement in directing a commercial (Nike ads).

London Critics Circle

**2008:** Nominated for best director for “Zodiac.”

National Board of Review

**2008:** Won best director for “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button.”

struck by the delicateness of feeling in the new movie.

“He’s had this reputation, ‘the prince of darkness,’ because of the subject matter that he’s done,” Pitt says. “When he took this on it was a bold move. Because I know Finch the father, who’s tirelessly devoted to his daughter, I know Finch the son, who walked his father through death for a

good year. And that so informed the story—with Eric, of course, who’s had similar experiences as a father and a son.”

Roth acknowledges some similarities between Benjamin’s story and “Forrest Gump,” which earned Roth a 1994 Oscar for adapted screenplay. “But I think this is a much different movie,” he says. “Not that I’m

knocking the other one, (but this) is a deeper movie.”

The film can be read on some levels as an allegory of America in a time of profound transition. Bathed in rich, dark colors by director of photography Claudio Miranda and wrapped in a tender, yearning atmosphere, the film finds a stirring visual symbol in New Orleans (a switch from Fitzgerald’s original Baltimore setting).

Pitt, who has become deeply involved since Hurricane Katrina in efforts to rebuild New Orleans through a foundation he operates with producer-financier Steve Bing, calls the decision to shoot there “absolutely serendipitous. Suddenly, it just gave it a whole new gravitas. It gave it this pulse,” he says. “There’s something timeless about New Orleans to begin with. And it’s a place of mystery and magic where you could believe something like this could happen.”

In the end, “Benjamin Button” affirms that mere mortals can’t arrest time’s flow any more than they can hold back a hurricane. Yet the movie’s mingling of themes of mortality and regeneration, fate and love, also suggests that it’s a minor miracle simply to be alive.

*Margarita Fujihira*  
*Ada Gaza*

*Better known as (Magritan Meko) of*  
*Kagman 2 was called to her eternal rest*  
*on Sunday December 14, 2008*  
*at the age of 50.*  
*March 26, 1958 - December 14, 2008*

*In her new life Margarita now joins her*  
**Parents:** †Hilario Reyes Ada & †Ana Fujihira Ada  
**Grand Parents:** †Felicita Reyes Ada & †Miguel Ada  
‡Jose & †Ana Atalig Fujihira  
**Brothers:** †Edward Ada / †Thomas Ada / †Ricardo Ada  
**Sister:** †Susana Ada Santos  
**Daughter:** †Melissa Sue Ada  
**Niece:** †Melissa Memoriana Ada

*She will be missed and remembered in the hearts of her*  
**Husband:** Danilo N. Gaza  
**Children:** Edward / Divona Ada (Edward Jay / Dustin Atila)  
Jennifer Gaza / Fermin Castro (Dannivid / Deven)  
Nicole / Lester Babauta (Danny Jake)  
**Sister/Brother:** Rosa / Federico Aquino & Children  
Barbara / Crizaldo Valdez & Children  
Rodney / Carmen Ada & Children  
**In-Law:** Barbara P. Ada & Children

*She will be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.*

*Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at the residence of*  
*Gloria Khan Maritita in Koblerville.*

*On Monday, December 22, 2008, her remains will be escorted from C.H.C. at*  
*7:30 a.m. to St. Jude Church. On the same day, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at*  
*11:00 a.m. at St. Jude Church. Interment will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery.*

*Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your Prayers and Thoughts from the Family.*

Scott Ruffalo’s death ruled homicide

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—The Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office has ruled the death of Mark Ruffalo’s younger brother a homicide.

Coroner’s spokesman Craig Harvey says an investigation

closed Wednesday determined that someone shot 39-year-old Scott M. Ruffalo in the head.

Beverly Hills police arrested, but later released, a 26-year-old woman suspected of the shooting. They have not publicly

named any other suspects.

The woman’s attorney said at the time of her release that Ruffalo shot himself in the head playing Russian roulette. Jail records do not indicate she has been re-arrested.

Police have not released a motive in the case and a police spokesman did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Ruffalo was found shot early Dec. 1 and died a week later.



# Simon's got Beyonce, Britney on his mind

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—As Simon Cowell describes it, adding a second female judge to

"American Idol" has brought a battle-of-the-sexes edge to the new season. Asked about a

producer's comment that newcomer Kara DioGuardi and series veteran Paula Abdul are

teaming up against him, Cowell replied: "What guy would like that? You've got two girls ganging up on you. One is hard enough; two is unbearable."

But with Randy Jackson at his side, Cowell told a teleconference Wednesday, "it's not that bad." Cowell said he values the proven chemistry he has with Jackson and Abdul, but that singer-songwriter DioGuardi is a qualified judge and, what is more important, has strong opinions that she's willing to express.

He's taking a wait-and-see attitude about the revamped team. The show returns for its eighth season Jan. 13.

When it comes to celebrities he'd like to welcome on "Idol," Cowell said his wish list includes Paul McCartney, Beyonce and Britney Spears.

McCartney has so far refused to appear on "American Idol," but Spears and Beyonce took part in Cowell's British talent show, "X Factor." Spears tops his list for "Idol," Cowell said.

He strongly defended the show's producers against complaints by Abdul that they exposed her to danger by letting an alleged stalker audition in a past season. The woman, Paula Goodspeed, was found dead of apparent suicide in a car near Abdul's Los Angeles home last month.

He took issue with descriptions of Goodspeed as a stalker rather than a fan, saying, "We're talking about a tragedy here." It was one Cowell found to be painful.

The show's producers have "the utmost integrity as human beings," Cowell said, and he believes they were unaware of how troubled Goodspeed was.

"American Idol" conducts an open audition process and doesn't research the many people who try out, said Cowell, adding that he does try to remind prospective

contestants that they face criticism as part of the process. The show is not "inherently mean" but is about making dreams come true.

On Monday, series executive producer Ken Warwick said, "I would definitely not put a dangerous person or person I thought was remotely dangerous in front of the judges."



Cowell

## Hip-hop's Akon admits throwing fan off stage

**FISHKILL, N.Y. (AP)**—Hip-hop star Akon pleaded guilty Wednesday to harassment for tossing a fan off stage at an upstate New York concert last year. He will serve no jail time as long he performs 65 hours of community service and pays a \$250 fine, according to the plea bargain in Fishkill Town Court.

The 35-year-old singer threw a teenage boy off the stage during a June 2007 concert at a minor league baseball stadium near Poughkeepsie. Another concertgoer said she suffered a concussion when the teen landed on her.

Witnesses said a spectator threw something at Akon during the show at Dutchess Stadium. After he asked the crowd to point out the culprit, a security guard picked up a 15-year-old boy and sent him up to the stage. Akon hoisted the teen onto his shoulders and flung him into the crowd. The incident was caught on videotape.

After the plea, Akon shook hands with An-

thony Smith, the now 16-year-old fan, and apologized to him and his parents.

Akon declined comment as he left, but Andrea Zellan, his lawyer, issued a written statement saying, "We are pleased that the case has been resolved and Akon looks forward to putting this unfortunate incident behind him."

Akon, born Aliaune Thiam, was originally charged with misdemeanor endangering the welfare of a minor and second-degree harassment, a violation.

Dutchess County Assistant District Attorney Anthony Parisi could not immediately be reached for comment Wednesday morning.

Before the New York incident, Akon drew criticism when he was videotaped simulating sex onstage with a teenage girl during an April 2007 concert in Trinidad. He later apologized and said he hadn't know the girl was underage.

His third album, "Freedom," was released earlier this month.



Hip-hop artist Akon leaves court, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008, in Fishkill, N.Y.

## Celebrities, music stars hosting inaugural ball

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Roll out the red carpet! Paparazzi, ready your cameras! Hollywood and rock stars are bringing their own razzle-dazzle to President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration.

Anne Hathaway, Susan Sarandon, Marcia Cross, Tim Robbins, Seal, Adrian Grenier, Ashley Judd, Jane Krakowski, Rachael Leigh Cook, Blair Underwood and directors Spike Lee and Ron Howard are confirmed. And that's just a partial list of the hosts for an unofficial inaugural ball.

Elvis Costello is the headliner and rock stars Sting and Sam Moore will also appear, according to The Creative Coalition. The ball is a fundraising event for the nonprofit arts and entertainment advocacy group.

The event will kick off in Washington's Harman Center for the Arts the night of Jan. 20, when Obama is sworn in as the nation's 44th president. Musical guests are scheduled to perform until midnight.

Besides the star-studded lineup, confirmed hosts also include members of Congress as well as policy, media and business leaders.

This won't be the only celebrity ball for the inauguration, which typically attracts plenty of glitzy affairs. Events across Washington are expected to be attended by plenty of A-listers and political power players.

## Nickelodeon planning first inauguration coverage

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Nickelodeon TV, the children's network, is getting ready to cover its first presidential inauguration. Young reporters Lily Collins, rocker Phil Collins' daughter, and J.J. (Nick would not release his last name) will be in Washington on Jan. 20 to show Barack Obama's inauguration from a pint-sized perspective. Throughout the presidential campaign, Nickelodeon found that interest among its young viewers matched that of the adults. Nick's own online "election" had 2.2 million children voting, with kids supporting Obama over John McCain (51 percent to 49 percent) in a closer margin than the real election.

"We decided to carry it through so that kids would have the full experience of the presidential election," said Marva Smalls, executive vice president of public affairs at Nickelodeon.

The coverage will show up during commercial breaks and, most prominently, during the periods between regular shows

in prime-time. Nick will offer a retrospective of past presidents taking the oath of office and interviews with young people about Obama's election and his inaugural address.

Nick won't cover the speech live, but will take excerpts shortly after it is done from coverage on a news network and package it for its viewers. "We can't go live in the same way the networks are going live but it will feel the same way to kids," Smalls said.

The station's young viewers are particularly interested in the process because Barack and Michelle Obama's daughters, Malia and Sasha, are squarely in Nick's demographic, she said.

Nick reporters covered the primary this year for the first time (another online poll found kids selecting Obama and McCain as the nominees before Super Tuesday) and went to the Democratic and Republican party conventions. Republicans didn't allow Nick TV reporters on their convention floor; the Democrats did.

For example, former Vice President Al Gore will be the honorary chair of the 2009 Green Inaugural Ball on Jan. 19

at the National Portrait Gallery. About two dozen environmental organizations are on the event's host committee.

## HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

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### Seven Pounds

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:40  
 Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:40  
 Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:10  
 Mon and Tue 4:10 7:10  
 Wed 1:15 4:10 7:10

**Will Smith, Rosario Dawson**  
 Drama, Romance • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

Ben Thomas, an IRS agent with a fateful secret, embarks on an extraordinary journey of redemption by forever changing the lives of seven strangers.



### The Tale of Despereaux

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45  
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45  
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00  
 Mon and Tue 4:00 7:00  
 Wed 1:00 4:00 7:00

**Sigourney Weaver, Dustin Hoffman**  
 Animated, Children • Rated G

### Synopsis

In the faraway kingdom of Dor, four unlikely heroes emerge: Despereaux, a brave mouse banished to the dungeon for speaking with a human; Roscuro, a good-hearted rat who loves light and soup, but is exiled to darkness; Pea, a Princess in a gloomy castle who is prisoner to her father's grief; and Mig, a servant girl who longs to be a Princess, but is forced to serve the jailer.



### Yes Man

Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35  
 Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35  
 Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05  
 Mon and Tue 4:20 7:05  
 Wed 1:05 4:20 7:05

**Jim Carrey, Bradley Cooper**  
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

Carl Allen's life is going nowhere--the operative word being "no"--until he signs up for a self-help program based on one simple covenant: say yes to everything--and anything. Unleashing the power of "YES" begins to transform Carl's life in amazing an unexpected ways, getting him promoted at work and opening the door to a new romance.



### The Day The Earth Stood Still

Friday 4:05 7:25 10:00  
 Saturday 1:20 4:05 7:25 10:00  
 Sunday 1:20 4:05 7:25  
 Mon and Tue 4:05 7:25  
 Wed 1:20 4:05 7:25

**Keanu Reeves, Jennifer Connelly**  
 Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13



### Transporter 3

Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55  
 Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55  
 Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15  
 Mon and Tue 4:30 7:15  
 Wed 1:25 4:30 7:15

**Jason Statham, Robert Berleand**  
 Action, Crime, Sequel • Rated PG 13



### Twilight

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50  
 Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50  
 Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20  
 Mon and Tue 4:25 7:20  
 Wed 1:30 4:25 7:20

**Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson**  
 Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13



### Bolt

Friday 4:15 7:30 9:30  
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:30  
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30  
 Mon and Tue 4:15 7:30  
 Wed 1:10 4:15 7:30

**John Travolta, Miley Cyrus**  
 Action, Animated • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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[www.gohollywood.com](http://www.gohollywood.com)



## The question of children slows growth of budding relationship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 38-year-old woman who has been dating a 32-year-old man I'll call "Vinny" for three months. When I realized that I had developed strong feelings for him, I decided to ask him what his feelings were about our friendship and where he saw it going. Keep in mind, Vinny has no children, and I have two from a previous marriage.



*Dear Abby*

Vinny told me he has developed feelings for me, too, but that he wants to have children of his own someday. I respect and understand his honesty. He also said he was scared, and that in the past, when he has felt he was getting too close to someone, he would pull away. That suggests to me that he is commitment-phobic.

My problem is, Vinny continues to call me several times a day and every night before he goes to bed—although we have not been spending as much time together as we have in the past. Am I wasting my time? Should I start dating other people? I care a lot about Vinny and would like to be with him.

BEWILDERED IN MISSISSIPPI

**DEAR BEWILDERED:** Frankly, the questions you are asking me should be directed to Vinny during one of your daily or nightly conversations. If he's serious about wanting children of his own and you are not interested in having more, that could present a serious problem. If you ARE interested, then there is also the issue of your biological clock.

That said, you and Vinny have known each other only three months. You may have been premature in asking him to declare his intentions so quickly. However, if you weren't on his mind, you wouldn't still be hearing from him. And if he is interested in playing the field, then so should you.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My best friend, "Jade," and I went to college together and now, years later, we live in different parts of the country. She just married a man ("Paul") with whom she is deeply in love, and I am happy for her. At the same time, though, I feel sadness because I do not like Paul. He is cold and curt with me, and seems to be devoid of personality. I feel uncomfortable in his presence.

Because we always stay at each other's homes when we visit, going to see Jade now, of course, means having to be around her husband—and I dread such a trip. If I tell her I don't like Paul, you can imagine how upset she'll be. Should I simply announce that from here on out I'll be staying at a hotel when I come to visit?

LOVES HER, NOT HIM

**DEAR LOVES HER:** By all means. Your visits will no longer be two college friends getting together because a third person has been added to the mix. From your description of Paul's behavior, he isn't particularly comfortable around you either. And if Jade should give you an argument—as she may—that's the way you should explain it to her.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I frequently dine out for business meetings. What is the proper way to react when someone asks you a question and you have just taken a bite of food or are in mid-chew? I feel I must acknowledge them, but I don't want to talk with my mouth full.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT, FORT COLLINS, COLO.

**DEAR F.F.T.:** Hold one hand up, palm outward. Continue chewing and swallow your food. Point out that the person "caught you with your mouth full," and then answer the question.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)*

## Cops: McCready hospitalized after suicide attempt

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—**Nashville police say country singer Mindy McCready has been hospitalized after an apparent suicide attempt. A police report says McCready's brother discovered she had cut her wrists and taken several pills at her home Wednesday. Timothy McCready told police his sister had been "very intoxicated" after a night out. A hospital spokeswoman says

the singer is in stable condition. McCready attorney Lee Ofman said he did not have details about the situation.

In October, McCready was released after about 30 days in jail for violating probation on a 2004 drug charge.

She has struggled with legal and personal problems that included previous suicide attempts.

In this Aug. 22, 2006 file photo, country singer Mindy McCready answers questions outside the courtroom in Franklin, Tenn.

AP



## Madonna, Ritchie won't detail divorce deal

**LONDON (AP)—**Madonna and Guy Ritchie have issued a statement saying both are happy with the financial agreement reached in their divorce—but they aren't telling you or anyone else about the details.

On Monday, Madonna spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg told The Associated Press in an e-mail that Madonna would pay Ritchie a settlement in the range of 50 million to 60 million pounds (about \$76 million

to \$92 million). But the divorcing couple said Wednesday that Rosenberg's statement contained inaccurate information about the financial settlement.

Their latest joint statement says settlement details of their divorce will remain private.

The pop star and the British film director were married in a lavish ceremony in Scotland in December 2000. Their divorce is expected to be finalized in January.

## You're invited to the Hiltons' Christmas party

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Kathy Hilton's Christmas tree is overflowing with gifts, but none are for her famous daughters Paris and Nicky. They're actually for you.

Hilton is bringing the public into her home (through TV and the Web) for "Christmas with the Stars," a charity auction to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. More than 200 items donated by famous folks, including Elizabeth Taylor and the Jonas Brothers, will be available at the Saturday event, to be broadcast live on Auction

Network (7-11 p.m. EST).

Visitors can cast bids on Taylor's necklace and shoes, a meet-and-greet with the Jonas Brothers, autographed guitars from Melissa Etheridge and Avril Lavigne, a tambourine signed by Brian Wilson and dozens of designer items once owned by Paris and Nicky Hilton.

Hilton held her first auction to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation last Christmas and plans to make it an annual tradition. Her auction raised more than \$27,000 last year.



AP

Kathy Hilton poses with items donated by celebrity friends at her home in Bel Air, Calif. on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008.

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Stepmother sues Whitney Houston over condo

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—**Whitney Houston is being sued by her stepmother in a legal battle over the wishes of Houston's deceased father. According to court records, Barbara Houston claims the 45-year-old singer improperly kept the proceeds from John Houston's \$1 million insurance policy after he died in 2003. The lawsuit says the singer was supposed to use \$723,000 to pay off the mortgage on her father's Fort Lee condominium. She holds the mortgage on the condo. The stepmother, who still lives in the condo, claims that Whitney Houston was also supposed to return the remaining insurance money to her.

### Lindsay Lohan fan arrested at Scottsdale nightclub

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—**Scottsdale police say they arrested a Phoenix man early Wednesday after he allegedly pushed a nightclub security guard while trying

to get close to actress Lindsay Lohan. Police say Lohan and galpal Samantha Ronson were trying to leave the Jackrabbit Lounge nightclub and security guards were trying to hold back the crowd. The bouncers told police that's when the 38-year-old fan tried to get around them, pushed one of the guards and became disruptive. Police say in a news release that the man was detained and then turned over to officers. He was booked on a misdemeanor or disorderly conduct charge and later released. Officers say they contacted Lohan and Ronson at a nearby hotel and they said they didn't know the man.

### Mannish Boys lead nominees for blues awards

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—**The group Mannish Boys leads all nominees for the upcoming Blues Music Awards in Memphis with six nominations, including album and band of the year. The Blues Foundation announced the nominations Tuesday. Tied with four each: Elvin

Bishop, Eden Brent, Janiva Magness, Curtis Salgado and Watermelon Slim. Buddy Guy is nominated for three awards and B.B. King for two. The awards show will be held May 7 at the Cook Convention Center.

### NBC's 'Superstars of Dance': a global competition

**NEW YORK (AP)—**Nigel Lythgoe has set the barre (pronounced: bar) high for his new series, "Superstars of Dance." "We're bringing class to NBC," he says. Lythgoe's global dance competition, which premieres Jan. 4, will bring together leading professionals from eight nations for judging by a panel of judges from around the world. Co-hosts are Susie Castillo ("House of Payne") and Michael Flatley ("Lord of the Dance"), who Lythgoe hails as "the world's best-known dancer." Lythgoe, an executive producer, is best known to viewers as a judge on his Fox dancing contest, "So You Think You Can Dance." The countries scheduled to participate on

"Superstars" are Ireland, India, Argentina, China, Russia, South Africa, Australia and the United States. Flatley describes it as "an intoxicating mix of cultures."

### Getty endowment drops by 25 percent

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**The J. Paul Getty Trust, which operates the world-famous Getty art museum in Los Angeles, says its nearly \$6 billion endowment has tumbled by roughly 25 percent since June 30. James Wood, the trust's chief executive, said in an e-mail message to the staff Wednesday that the losses call for a hiring freeze and a halt to promotions and salary adjustments. The Getty, which also operates the Getty Villa in Malibu, has about 1,300 employees. The trust is the largest arts philanthropic organization in the country and the third-largest foundation. The Foundation Center, which studies nonprofits and philanthropy, ranks the trust behind the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Ford Foundation.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



CLICK

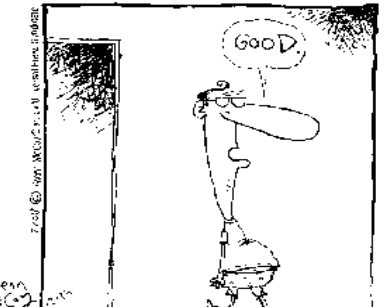
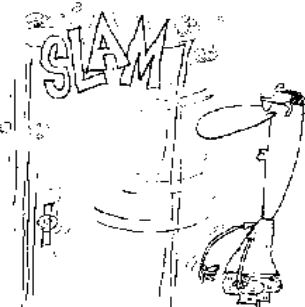
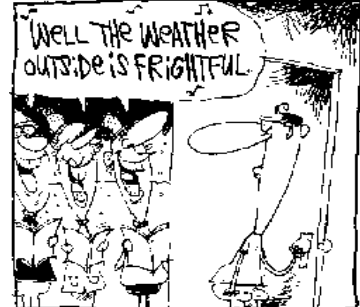
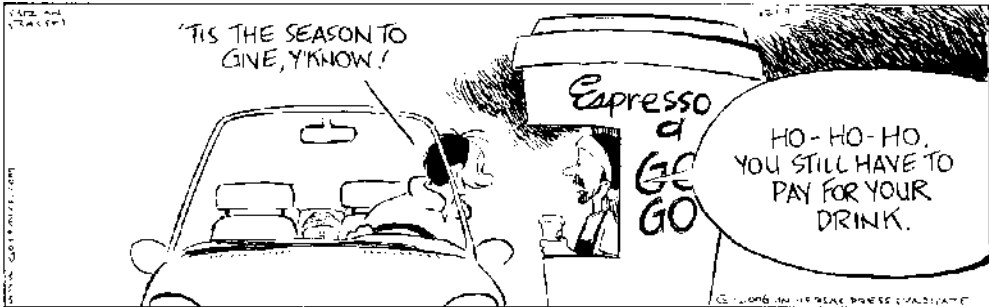


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

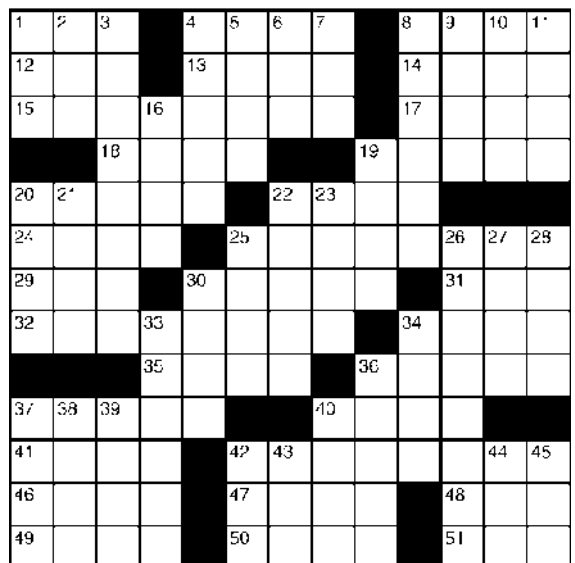
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spasm  
4 Greenish-blue  
8 — Bader Ginsburg  
12 Historic time  
13 Maridli-kova  
14 Birthright barter  
15 Gilligan, notably  
17 Immediately upcoming  
18 Veer  
19 Bull-winkle's foe  
20 Emulate da Vinci  
22 Sketch  
24 Shrek is one  
25 Us  
29 25-Across, e.g.  
30 Corridors  
31 Lubricant  
32 Court-room punishment  
34 They give a hoot
- DOWN**
- 1 Sleuth, for short  
2 A Gershwin brother  
3 Rigid  
4 Graph  
5 Exhibit ennui  
6 Literary collection  
7 Aye  
8 Fame  
9 Addict  
10 Urban transport  
11 Shacks  
16 Melody  
19 Ovine vocabulary  
20 Space-craft compartments  
21 Chills and fever  
22 "La — Vita"  
23 Legisla-tion  
25 Tug  
26 Sad  
27 Marathon fraction  
28 "Born Free" lioness  
30 Estate recipient  
33 Rob  
34 Mostly Midcast-ern cartel  
36 Mimics  
37 Doggerel-is: Ogden  
38 Partner in crime  
39 Out of play  
40 Tater  
42 Common-est English word  
43 Thither  
44 Witness  
45 Erstwhile M&M's hue

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-18



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Al-yssa Milano, 36; Tyson Beckford, 38; Jessica Steen, 43; Jennifer Beals, 45

**Happy Birthday:** Emotional matters will leave you difficult choices but, if you separate your feelings from what needs to be done, you can avoid the grief that comes from making the wrong move. Do whatever it takes to hold on to what you've worked so hard for. Now is not the time to give in, give up or let uncertainty cause you to make an impulsive move. Your numbers are 11, 13, 22, 26, 31, 38, 43

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** There is still time to make some moves before the year comes to a close. Check out job prospects that might come into play in the new year. You can sign up for courses to enhance or add to your skills. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Think about what you accomplished this past year and what you want to pursue in the future. If you aren't completely happy with the way things have gone, make your adjustments now. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You've got some great ideas that could parlay into a partnership but don't follow through for the wrong reasons. Make sure that your ideas are feasible in the current economic atmosphere. You have plenty of time to plan. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Change is exactly what you need, so stop fighting it. Someone you care about isn't likely to agree with what you are doing. Set the record straight so everyone knows why you feel the way you do. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Have some fun with friends and stop worrying so much about your work. If you mix business with pleasure, you will end up on the losing end of the stick. Enjoy the people who appreciate you the most. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Look for something new to enhance your looks or give you a new lease on life. You need a change now more than ever. Find a new direction that will stimulate your mind and get you excited about the future. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You'll be feeling emotionally drained from conversations with people who are overindulgent, overbearing or just plain stubborn. Pick your battles carefully. Put your energy into the one you love most. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Focus on what you can do for others and you will hook up with someone who shows an interest in what you are trying to achieve. A problem with a lover is likely to leave you feeling distant or out of touch. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. You may need to find a way to stretch your time and fit both choices into your plans. Come up with a workable solution for an added responsibility. ★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Finalize paperwork, close a deal or do something to add to the comfort of your home. The possibility of a financial gain is looking posi-

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Someone you least expect may have an interest in you. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You've got a better handle on your life than you realize, so relax and start putting things in order. A to-do list will help you organize your day. Love and romance are looking positive—plan to get out with the one you love, or socialize if you are single. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You may have trouble settling into something you promised to do. Instead of arguing, get what needs to be done out of the way so you can do what you really want to do. Someone you respect will offer help or suggestions. ★★★

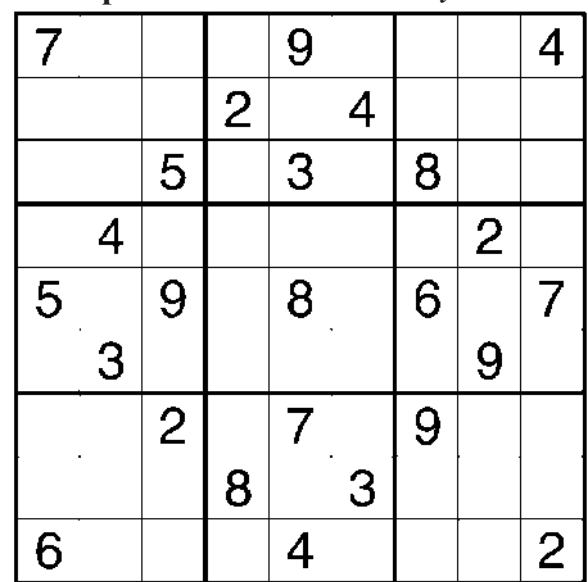
**Birthday Baby:** You are incredibly clever and resilient. You will not back down from anything or anyone. You attract change, adapt well and are practical and pragmatic.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



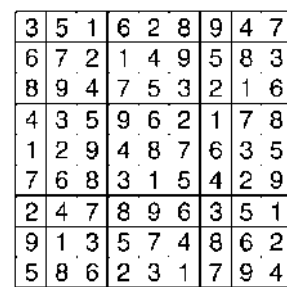
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letter letters spell the Wonderword.

REDEMPTION IS SWEET

Solution: 6 letters



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Achieve, Alone, Claim, Complete, Convert, Delight, Deliverance, Desire, Earn, Effort, Experience, Fee, Final, Focus, Forgive, Free, Fulfill, Grow, Huge, Improve, Kind, Obligate, Payment, Perfect, Perform, Power, Price, Process, Protect, Rehabilitate, Release, Respect, Return, Roam, Seek, Setting, State, Strength, Succeed, Take, Tithe, Value

Yesterday's Answer: Chugach

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# CLASSIFIED ADS



Saipan Tribune's Classified Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

- 3-Liner
- 5-Liner
- 3-Liner with picture
- 5-Liner with picture

**\$43**  
**\$55**

## Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

## Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.  
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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**Only \$25** WE ALSO FIX  
 Minor LAPTOP &  
 Problem USED PARTS  
**233-5641**  
 Open 7 Day a Week  
 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

**EFC Services Corp.**  
**Vacancy: Receptionist**  
**Local/IR ONLY.**  
Pickup application at 3rd  
Floor Suite 304, Bank of Hawaii  
Building, Puerto Rico.

**HOUSE FOR RENT**  
(Sunset APT)  
1Bedroom w/ Living Room  
24 hrs. water • Fully Furnished  
Including Power • \$550.00/month  
235-3004 • 285-1860

**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE  
ACCOUNTANT**  
Submit resume to  
**INTERKAM TRAVEL AGENCY**  
or call Tel. Nos.  
**235-8888/5554/5555**

# WHATZIT?


Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

*Dear Mom and Dad*

*Love Son*

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## Find today's solution in this section



*"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"*

15 years of making wishes of eligible children with life-threatening illnesses come true!

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Email: [mawfguam@ite.net](mailto:mawfguam@ite.net)  
[www.wish.org](http://www.wish.org)  
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

**Saipan Tribune**

WHATZIT Solution:  
Nothing to write home about

**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

For rent: Unfurnished 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, spacious yard with remote-entry. Completely enclosed for privacy. This must see house is near Kagman High School. Cha-Cha Jr. High and the LauLau Golf Course. \$1,200 or best acceptable offer with security deposit. Contact #322-0922

**FOR SALE**

Pigs for Roasting.  
For inquiries,  
please call 322-6183

**WANTED TO LEASE**

Looking for a fenced house with less \$500/month rent. Please contact: 285-3999 or dshong8@hotmail.com (except Kagman and Capital Hill areas)

**WANTED TO LEASE**

Looking for property  
with nice oceanview to  
lease, preparably direct  
from land owner.  
Please contact 483-9984

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company to the **world!**

The Saipan Tribune website averages 6,994,897 hits and 204,298 visits per month. That's an average of 225,641 hits and 6590 visits per day (average between Aug.-Oct. 2008).

So, don't wait any longer! Contact Kurt Sablan or Absalon Waki at **235-2440/8747/6397** to book your ad space today!



**www.saipantribune.com**





## A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR FINANCIAL AUDIT

This is to request for proposal (RFP) to perform a financial and compliance audit on KARIDAT for fiscal years ending September 30, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The audit will be performed in compliance with the generally accepted auditing standards. The proposals must be submitted to Karidat's Office in Chalan Kanoa or mailed to Karidat Social Service, P.O. Box 500745, Saipan, MP 96950 by January 05, 2009.

- I. Contents of Proposal:** The following information must be included in the audit proposal.
- A. Title Page Containing:
- |                      |                     |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. RFP Subject       | 3. Local Address    | 5. Name of contact person |
| 2. Name of your firm | 4. Telephone number | 6. Submission Date        |
- II. Transmittal Letter:**
- A. A brief statement of you understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform work within the time period stipulated.
- B. State all-inclusive fee for which the audit will be performed.
- III. Firm Profile:** Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel education background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, Manager, supervisor, etc.) and client listings. The firm must make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are Certified Public Accountants (CPAs)
- IV. Proposal Evaluation Criteria:** The proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria.
- A. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating understanding of the work to be performed:
- Audit coverage
  - Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
- B. Qualifications and experience of firm:
- Size and structure of the firm
  - Ability to maintain continuity of project
  - Experience of the firm in auditing Federal Financial Assistance programs and Non-Profit Organization.
- C. Qualifications and experience of staff to be assigned, Education, position in the firm, and years and type of experience will be considered.
- Qualifications of audit team
  - Supervision to be exercised over the audit team firms
- D. Audit Fee
- V. Audit Administration Matters:**
- A. KARIDAT staff will prepare schedules as required by the Auditors.
- B. Audit Planning Meetings, Interim conferences and Exit Conference may be attended by following officials:
- Executive Director and Board Members of Karidat
- C. Date of contract award will be January 12, 2009 and the audit field work must be completed by February 13, 2009.
- D. The draft audit report must be completed no later than April 30, 2009.
- E. All inquiries must be in writing and submitted prior to the proposal deadline of January 5, 2009.
- VI. Confidentiality of Audit Proposals:** All audit proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposal must be labeled "Confidential" and transmitted to the Executive Director, **KARIDAT P.O. BOX 500745, Saipan, MP 96950**. It may also be hand-delivered to the Executive Director at the KARIDAT Social Services Office in Chalan Kanoa.

Sincerely,

Angie Guerrero  
Executive Director



## Commonwealth Of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



### INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW09-IFB-001

#### CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 201 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, TINIAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Route 201 Road Improvements, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (**TINIAN**).

The project package will be available on or after December 5, 2008 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (Ole) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wages as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on December 29, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Rai Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 19, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB-001**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 22, 2009, and must be received no later than February 2, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 6, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on January 28, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred Two Hundred forty (**240**) **working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specification for Construction and Bridges on Federal Projects FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSON  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, Procurement & Supply



## Commonwealth Of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



### INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW09-IFB-003

#### PAVEMENT MARKING IN PRECINCT III-CHALAN MONSIGNOR GUERRERO AND CHALAN PALE ARNOLD INTERSECTION, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Pavement Marking in Precinct ID-Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and Chalan Pale Arnold Intersection, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after December 19, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to one Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on January 05, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site located at Intersection of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 09, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB-003**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 13, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time January 13, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 13, 2009, and must be received no later than February 22, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, January 27, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on January 16, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty (**30**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSON  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, Procurement & Supply



## Commonwealth Of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



### INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW09-IFB-004

#### REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF PAKPAK BEACH PARK PAVILIONS SAN ANTONIO, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Repair and Renovation of Pakpak Beach Park Pavilions San Antonio, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after December 19, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to one Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on January 06, 2009, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at Pakpak Beach Park in San Antonio, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 09, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd floor-Joeten Commercial Building Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB-004**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time January 14, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time January 14, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 14, 2009, and must be received no later than January 23, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, January 28, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on January 19, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive. bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty (**60**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (**US\$100.00**) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSON  
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, Procurement & Supply



# Garnett, Celtics top Hawks for 16th straight win



**ATLANTA (AP)**—The Boston Celtics looked to Kevin Garnett in the fourth quarter.

Garnett scored 10 of his 18 points in the final quarter, and Atlanta's Joe Johnson missed a late free throw that would have tied it, helping the Celtics beat the Hawks 88-85 on Wednesday night for their 16th straight victory.

After Johnson missed the second of two free throws with 2.7 seconds, Ray Allen made a pair of free throws with 0.7 seconds left for the defending NBA champion Celtics, who have a franchise-best 24-2 record. It was only the second loss in 10 home games for the Hawks.

"I told KG to take us home down the stretch," Celtics guard Rajon Rondo said. "I said make something happen. He said no problem."

Garnett, quiet for much of the game, was 5-for-5 from the field in the fourth quarter after opening 2-for-10.

"It means we're playing well. We want to play championship basketball. That's what we're building up to. Our goal is to win a championship," said Garnett.

"You play your role around here. You do your job. You do what you're supposed to," he said.

"We got a lot of great shots within the last few minutes of the game. Kevin hit two unbelievable shots," said Boston coach Doc Rivers.

In the only other game this season between the two, the Celtics beat Atlanta 103-102 on Nov. 12 in Boston on Paul Pierce's last-second basket.

Pierce added 18 points, and Allen had 16 for the Celtics.

The Celtics are 10-1 on the road and 14-1 at home.

"Sometimes it seems as though it's a burden. That monkey grows. It's a good monkey though," Allen said. "I've never been on a streak like this. It's great to be a part of our winning here. I think our winning is based on



Boston Celtics' Kendrick Perkins reacts in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008, in Atlanta.

our preparation."

Johnson led Atlanta with 20 points, 10 in the final period. He was 7-of-7 from the line before the miss. Marvin Williams added 16 points, and Josh Smith and Mike Bibby had 14 each for the Hawks.

"I had a chance to get us into overtime and missed the second free throw. I made the first one and some of the pressure was off,"

Johnson said.

"We drew the play up, and Joe got to the line, and the player that has carried this team the last four years went to the line," said Atlanta coach Mike Woodson. "You could not ask for anything different."

The Celtics took the lead for good at 85-84 on Garnett's basket with 30.8 seconds left. Rondo, who had 15 points, then made one of two free

throws to make it 86-84 lead with 9.1 seconds left.

Atlanta had won 12 of 13 at Philips Arena dating to last season's playoffs when Atlanta made the postseason for the first time since 1998-98 with a 37-45 record and beat Boston in all three games at home but lost all four in Boston.

Atlanta snapped Cleveland's 11-game winning streak with a 97-92 victory Saturday night and beat Charlotte 83-79 on Monday night in the second of eight straight home games.

## Hornets 90, Spurs 83

In New Orleans, Chris Paul set an NBA record with a steal in his 106th straight regular-season game and had 19 points and 12 assists as New Orleans beat San Antonio.

Paul broke Alvin Robertson's NBA mark—which stood since 1986—when he deflected and quickly corralled a pass late in the second quarter.

New Orleans erased a seven-point deficit in the last five minutes.

## Jazz 103, Nets 92

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Utah overcame a dismal seven points in the first quarter to beat New Jersey.

Deron Williams had 17 points and 11 assists as the Jazz recovered.

Utah lost coach Jerry Sloan after he picked up two technical fouls early in the fourth quarter.

## Cavaliers 93, Timberwolves 70

In Minneapolis, LeBron James scored 32 points on 14-of-20 shooting as Cleveland sent Minnesota to its 11th straight loss.

The Cavaliers were coming off a loss in Atlanta on Saturday that ended their winning streak at 11. They improved to 21-4, the exact opposite of Minnesota's record.

## Mavericks 96, Raptors 86

In Toronto, Dirk Nowitzki had 27 points and 10 rebounds to lead Dallas over Toronto.

Jason Terry also scored 27 points for Dallas.

## 76ers 93, Bucks 88

In Philadelphia, Lou Williams matched his career high with 25 points to spark Philadelphia's win over Milwaukee.

Andre Miller added 19 for the 76ers, who overcame the loss of forward Elton Brand who dislocated his right shoulder in the third quarter.

The Sixers have won both games under interim coach Tony DiLeo, who replaced the fired Maurice Cheeks on Saturday.

## Bulls 115, Clippers 109, OT

In Chicago, Derrick Rose converted a decisive three-point play in overtime as Chicago edged Los Angeles.

Chicago's Ben Gordon had a four-point play with 20.5 seconds left in regulation to force overtime, when they scored the final nine points.

## Pistons 88, Wizards 74

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Detroit notched a third successive win by downing Washington.

Allen Iverson scored 28 points, and Rodney Stuckey added 18 points and matched his career high with 11 assists for the Pistons.

Washington has an Eastern Conference-worst 4-19 record.

## Pacers 127, Warriors 120

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger almost single-handedly hauled Indiana over Golden State.

Granger scored 17 of his 41 points in the fourth quarter, made all 17 of his free throws and had 11 rebounds and six assists.

# Source: Furcal stays with Dodgers



**LOS ANGELES**

(AP)—Rafael Furcal accepted a three-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers worth at least \$30 million on Wednesday, and the Atlanta Braves accused the star shortstop of renegeing on a deal they thought was agreed to earlier this week.

Furcal can earn an additional \$3 million if he remains healthy during the three guaranteed seasons of the contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal was still not yet official.

A day earlier, Furcal had been close to accepting a \$30 million, three-year offer from the Atlanta Braves, his original major league team.

"From our perspective, we reached an agreement Monday night," Braves general manager Frank Wren said. "They asked for a term sheet for us to sign on Tuesday morning, and we sent over the signed term sheet. It was then that his agent (Paul Kinzer) informed us that (Kinzer's) partner had been in contact with the Dodgers.

"We still think there are players out there who can help us put the team to-

gether. Obviously, we began the offseason thinking about acquiring a power bat in the outfield, but when we had a chance to get a dynamic leadoff hitter and a solid fielder like Furcal, we took a very hard look at it."

Earlier Wednesday, Kinzer said Furcal had never accepted the Braves' offer.

"They know we didn't have a signed contract, that we didn't have even a verbal agreement. We had, 'Things look very good and Raffy's going to sleep on it,'" Kinzer said after a news conference for another client, Francisco Rodriguez.

Furcal gets \$6.5 million next season, \$8.5 million in 2010 and \$12 million in 2011. The deal includes a \$12 million team option for 2012, and the option would become guaranteed if he has 600 plate appearances in 2011. He also can earn an additional \$1 million annually, including the option year, if he remains healthy.

Furcal also will get a \$3 million payment by the end of the January following the contract's completion. He has a limited no-trade provision allowing him to block deals to a specified number of teams.

The 31-year-old switch-hitter, coming off a \$39 million, three-year deal

with the Dodgers, played for the Braves from 2000-05.

Furcal hit .357 with five homers and 16 RBIs last season, but was limited to 36 games and 143 at-bats by back problems. He had back surgery July 3 and was sidelined until the season's final week, but started each of the Dodgers' eight postseason games, hitting .258 with one homer, three RBIs and nine runs scored.

Furcal was hitting .366 through May 5 before injuring his back. He reached base in his first 30 games of the season, becoming the first Dodger to accomplish that feat since Duke Snider in his first 34 games of the 1955 season.

Furcal still owns a home in the Atlanta area, but owns another in nearby La Canada Flintridge as well.

Los Angeles hesitated to make an offer of more than two years because of Furcal's medical history, but general manager Ned Colletti has been saying for weeks that signing the shortstop was his immediate top priority.

Colletti can turn his attention to pitching and free-agent outfielder Manny Ramirez. A pair of Los Angeles starters, Derek Lowe and Brad Penny, became free agents.

# Sox owner says economic woes could affect offers

**BOSTON (AP)**—As the Boston Red Sox pursue Mark Teixeira, their owner said Wednesday the amount they're willing to spend on free agents depends on the nation's economic problems and the player involved.

With as many as five teams showing interest in the first baseman, there is serious doubt the Red Sox would go longer than the eight-year contract the Los Angeles Angels, Teixeira's former team, have offered.

"We all have limits," Red Sox owner John Henry said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "Eight years is a very long time in baseball and everywhere else."

He also said the amount the team is willing to spend on a free agent "depends on both" the economy and the player being sought.

"Baseball as a whole has not yet been hit by the financial crisis, but it will," Henry said. "The degree is in question and won't be answered for a while."

A decision by Teixeira on where he will end up did not appear imminent.

"No immediate timetable," his agent, Scott Boras, said in an e-mail Wednesday. "Negotiations are on going."

The Angels, who obtained Teixeira from the Atlanta Braves two days before the July 31 trade deadline, have said they made an eight-year offer. Boston, Baltimore, Washington and the New York Yankees all have expressed interest with some reportedly offering contracts for that length.

Teixeira would give the Red Sox the big bat in the middle of the lineup that they need after trading Manny Ramirez to the Los Angeles Dodgers at the deadline and watching David Ortiz's production drop as he battled a wrist injury last season.

Ortiz hit .264 with 23 homers in 109 games and went 8-for-43 with one homer in the postseason.

If they sign Teixeira, the Red Sox likely would move first baseman Kevin Youkilis to third, where Mike Lowell has two years and \$24 million left on his contract. Lowell is recovering from hip surgery and is expected to be ready to play before opening day.

Teixeira, an outstanding fielder, hit .308 with 33 homers and 121 RBIs last season. In 54 games with the Angels, he batted .358 with 13 homers and 43 RBIs.



# Tiger says knee rehab right on schedule



**THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.** (AP)—Tiger Woods wore sneakers instead of spikes. He sat next to a bottle of Gatorade Tiger, not the silver U.S. Open trophy. One thing that didn't change at his first press conference in 184 days were questions about his left knee.

But after speaking for a half-hour Wednesday at Sherwood Country Club, covering everything from his rehab to his caddie to his improbable victory at Torrey Pines, the most powerful statement about his health and future required no words at all.

Does he have any doubts he will be better than before?

Woods turned up the bottom of his lip, shook his head three times and mumbled, "Uh-uh," as if that had never entered his mind.

Six months after reconstructive surgery on his left knee to repair a ruptured ligament—his third surgery in six years—Woods said he was right on schedule to return, already hitting short irons and excited about playing on a leg that has never been more stable.

"I've just been training and trying to get healthy enough to compete next year," Woods said. "Everything has been right

on schedule. I couldn't have asked for anything more."

The uncertainty is when he will return, and how his leg will respond when he goes through a full practice.

His plan was to start hitting balls in January, but he already has been chipping and putting, and taking full swings with small clubs, shots that go no more than 100 yards.

"I haven't hit full shots with my entire bag yet," Woods said. "As far as coming back, I don't know. I don't know how it's going to respond with repeated practice days and long days of practice trying to get back, and ultimately playing my way into

shape. That's obviously going to take a little bit of time."

He is thankful to be merely the host this week of his Chevron World Challenge—temperatures felt like the upper 30s even before a light rain fell at Sherwood. Woods won last year by seven shots, and this is the fifth time this year he could not defend a title.

The last meaningful shot he took was a tap-in for par on the 19th hole in a Monday playoff at the U.S. Open, a victory that even Woods finds hard to believe. He played that week with the torn ligament and a double stress fracture, and spoke about a left knee with so much swell-

ing at night that he couldn't see his kneecap.

"As I've progressed through my shorter clubs, hitting fuller shots, you remember what it

was like when you hit a full shot," he said. "And for me, the last time I really hit a full shot was at the Open. It didn't feel very good."

## Saints RB Reggie Bush to miss last 2 games

**METAIRIE, La.** (AP)—Reggie Bush produced teasing glimpses of his dazzling talent, but for a second straight season got too beat up to do much else. The former Heisman Trophy winner, now in his third pro season, was placed on injured reserve Wednesday with a sprained left knee. When this season ends, he'll have missed 10 games in the last two years with various knee injuries.

Treated like a savior after the Saints drafted him second overall in 2006, Bush hasn't produced 1,000 yards of offense in a season since amassing 1,307 yards in his rookie year, which was also the last time the Saints made the playoffs.

"Certainly, expectations have probably been higher on him than any guy, maybe in the history of the league coming in," Saints quarterback Drew Brees said. "He continues to get better, a little bit better every day, and I think that needs to be his mindset. Just forget what people think,

media or otherwise, and just worry about getting better every day and worry about what you need to do to help this team win."

Bush was not present when the locker room at the Saints' suburban training center was open to reporters on Wednesday. Saints coach Sean Payton said Bush is expected to be examined again by noted orthopedic surgeon Dr. James Andrews on Friday as the running back and team formulate a rehab regimen.

Bush also missed the final four games of last season with a partially torn posterior cruciate ligament and sat out four games earlier this season with a torn meniscus in his left knee, which required arthroscopic surgery. He returned to action for three weeks before spraining his medial collateral ligament in the Saints' 27-24 overtime loss in Chicago last Thursday night.

His latest injury is not expected to require surgery, Payton said.

## Pacman Jones back with Cowboys



**IRVING, Texas** (AP)—Once again, Adam "Pacman" Jones is back with the Dallas Cowboys.

Thought to be out for the season because of a neck injury, Jones returned to practice Wednesday and is expected to play Saturday night, both at cornerback and returning kicks, after having missed only one game.

Coach Wade Phillips said the herniated disk discovered last week has healed, perhaps because he already had the prob-

lem and it was only aggravated by a hit he took two games ago in Pittsburgh. That was his first game back with the Cowboys after being suspended from six games for violating the league's personal conduct policy.

"He's got nine lives," Phillips said. "Maybe he's got 18."

Phillips said the reversal in the diagnosis came from a re-evaluation. Doctors originally were going to wait three weeks, but decided to try again sooner and were glad they did. He said Jones would've been put on injured reserve last

week if doctors had been sure there was no chance of him returning this season.

"It just wasn't as bad as we thought," Phillips said. "Once it was treated, it was better. ... They said he's ready to go. He seems ready."

Dallas (9-5) plays Baltimore on Saturday night in a game between teams vying for wild-card berths in each conference. Having Jones back helps because it frees cornerback Anthony Henry to play more at safety, where the Cowboys are running out of healthy players. Starter Ken

Hamlin didn't practice Wednesday and may not all week; he didn't practice last week, but played in the game.

Tony Romo remains stiff and sore because of a back injury, but went through most of practice. Phillips said he improved as he went along and is counting on Romo to play against the Ravens.

Running back Marion Barber missed practice and may be a game-time decision for the second straight week because of a dislocated pinkie toe on his right foot.

# December to Remember

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per week

**KARAOKE SYSTEMS**

**\$14<sup>95</sup>**  
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# DCCA lone unbeaten team in softball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs won the battle of undefeated teams in the men's division of the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League after crushing Commonwealth Health Center, 38-13, Wednesday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

DCCA gained its eighth win in as many games, while CPA absorbed its first loss after seven matches.

The defending champions may have routed CPA based on the final scores, but the match was a close one in the first five innings, until DCCA stepped on the gas in the seventh scoring 19 runs.

CPA even had the lead, 13-12, after five complete innings, but handed the win to DCCA when the former failed to score in the last two innings.

DCCA pitcher Mel Sakisat had a two-run homer at the top of the sixth to seize the lead, 14-13. DCCA kept the lead after six complete innings when CPA's first batter was beaten to first and the next two flied out.

The defending champions pulled way in the last inning, scoring one run after another. DCCA had three batters making

three trips at-bat.

DCCA's break away at the top of the seventh was highlighted by Julian Camacho's grand slam. Camacho went 4-for-7 at-bat, scored four runs and had six RBIs.

Third baseman Joey Dela Cruz was 6-for-7 making two homers and six RBIs. Craig Sanchez and Peter Camacho were the two other DCCA sluggers who homered in the game.

DCCA was 42-for-64 at-bat for an average of .657.

## Docomo 26, Law & Order 2

In the first game in the men's division, Docomo walloped Law & Order, 26-2.

Docomo had five sluggers scoring one homer apiece to improve to a 4-4 record. Law & Order dropped to a 3-5 slate after scoring only in the fifth inning.

Gloyd Martin went 3-for-4 at-bat for Docomo recording three runs and five RBIs. He had a roundtripper in the first inning and a two-run triple in the fifth.

Another outstanding performer for Docomo was Payton Sakuma, who went 2-for-3 at-bat and hit a three-run homer in the third. He also had five RBIs.

## CRM/DEQ 13, CHC 9

The last game of the night

had CRM/DEQ thwarting Commonwealth Health Center, 13-9.

# Kabiriel tops SSC Jingle Bell 5K Fun Run

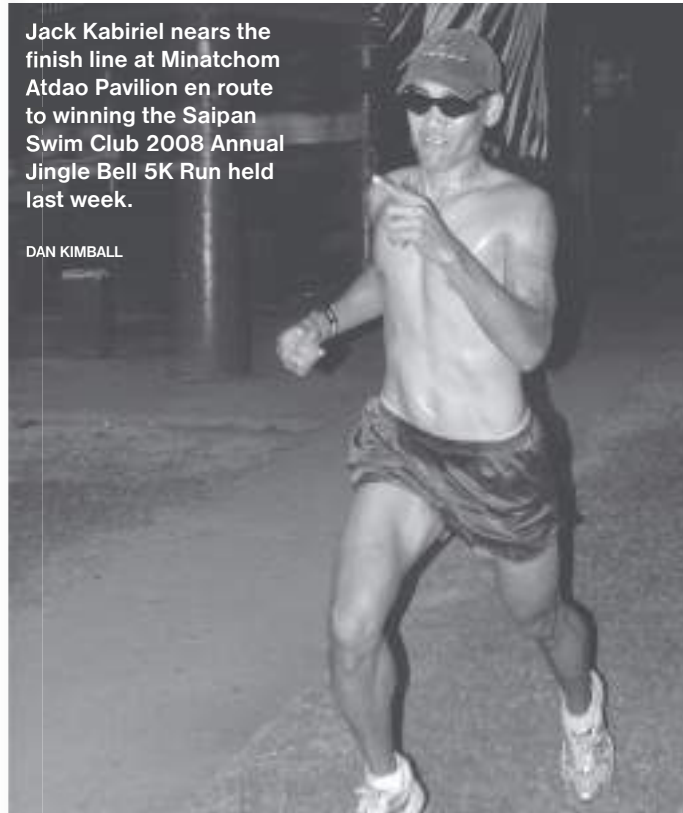
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Veteran runner Jack Kabiriel ruled the Saipan Swim Club 2008 Annual Jingle Bell 5K Run

Jack Kabiriel nears the finish line at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion en route to winning the Saipan Swim Club 2008 Annual Jingle Bell 5K Run held last week.

DAN KIMBALL



DEQ/CRM claimed its third win in eight games, while CHC had its fifth loss

held last week outracing about 100 participants.

Kabiriel finished the race from Garapan Fishing Base to Minatchom Atdao Pavilion across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in 17 minutes, 38 seconds.

Reaching the finish line by only seven seconds behind Ka-

biriel was another frequent fun

run participant—Matt Mancao, who timed in at 17:45. He was the first student finisher.

In the women's division, Nikki Gabaldon was ahead of the pack of adult participants, clocking in at 20:49, while All Schools cross country champion Gabrielle Race was the top finisher in the female students division timing in at 28:59.

Last week's fun run was SSC's last event for the year and organizers were thankful it went ahead without a hitch.

"SSC is pleased that it did not rain during the race. The Jingle Bell run has become a holiday tradition for most of the Islanders. Hearing all the bells jingling as runners past by, it was as if Santa's sleigh was near," SSC treasurer Lisa Kimball said.

Aside from the veteran runners on Saipan, the Jingle Bell run was participated in by SSC swimmers themselves, their parents, and supporters of the club.

The event is a fundraiser, as proceeds in the fun run will be used for SSC's operational expenses.

SSC thanked the following for supporting the fun run: Marianas Eye Institute; Pacific

event after 10 years.

For his impressive showing in XTERRA Saipan, Torgeson earned a slot to the 2008 XTERRA World Champions in Maui, Hawaii held two months ago and made a good account of himself in the culminating event.

Torgeson also joined this year's Tagaman Triathlon, XTERRA Guam and Saipan Half Marathon, and a series of NMIF Enticers.

"I had a lot of good races on Saipan and I want to thank those who race with me, those who gave me challenges. The members of the sports community had been very good to me and my family. I will definitely miss them," Torgeson said.

Pacific girls dominated the 14-and-under division.

"They did not do that well last year in the 14-and-under, but look now, they did an impressive job. It's really good to hear that our girls are holding their own against New Zealand and Australia players," Race said.

"I am sure these players who are playing in New Zealand will be among the players to beat in next's year POJC," he added.

year to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

Its members abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

RBIs. Ed Manibusan and Jake Lizama had one homer apiece in the first inning.

Island Club; Saipan Computer Services; Hardt Eye Clinic; Saipan Ice & Water Co.; Saipan Shipping Co.; Dolphin Wholesale; National Office Supply; PTI, Pacific Trading Co; McDonald's; Western Union, Hyatt Regency; Shell Marianas; Marianas Visitors Bureau; and the American Red Cross CNMI Chapter.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	24	2	.923	—
New Jersey	12	12	.500	11
New York	11	14	.440	12 1/2
Philadelphia	11	14	.440	12 1/2
Toronto	10	15	.400	13 1/2

#### Southeast Division

Orlando	19	6	.760	—
Atlanta	15	10	.600	4
Miami	12	12	.500	6 1/2
Charlotte	8	18	.308	11 1/2
Washington	4	19	.174	14

#### Central Division

Cleveland	21	4	.840	—
Detroit	14	9	.609	6
Chicago	12	13	.480	9
Milwaukee	11	16	.407	11
Indiana	9	16	.360	12

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

New Orleans	15	7	.682	—
Houston	16	9	.640	1/2
San Antonio	15	9	.625	1
Dallas	14	10	.583	2
Memphis	9	16	.360	7 1/2

##### Northwest Division

Denver	17	8	.680	—
Portland	16	10	.615	1 1/2
Utah	16	11	.593	2
Minnesota	4	21	.160	13
Oklahoma City	2	24	.077	15 1/2

##### Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	21	3	.875	—
Phoenix	15	10	.600	6 1/2
L.A. Clippers	7	18	.280	14 1/2
Golden State	7	19	.269	15
Sacramento	7	19	.269	15

#### Yesterday's Games

Boston 88, Atlanta 85
Dallas 96, Toronto 86
Philadelphia 93, Milwaukee 88
Indiana 127, Golden State 120
Utah 103, New Jersey 92
Detroit 88, Washington 74
Cleveland 93, Minnesota 70
Chicago 115, L.A. Clippers 109, OT
New Orleans 90, San Antonio 83

By The Associated Press

### LOCAL SCORES

#### BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

##### Men's Division

DCCA	8	0
CPA	6	1
Freedom Air	6	1
No Zone	6	2
Beach Boys	5	1
Joeten Motors	5	2
Legislature	4	3
DLNR	4	3
POI	3	2
P & S	3	3
Docomo	4	4
Law & Order	3	5
PSS	2	4
CHC	2	5
CUC	2	5
Customs	2	5
DEQ/CRM	3	5
PIC	1	5
Hopwood	0	6
Mayors	0	7

##### Women's Division

NMC	7	0
DCCA	3	2
Finance	2	4
CHC	1	4
CUC	1	4

## TORGESON

From Page 36

2nd Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle this month with Torgeson successfully defending his title and setting a new record. He finished the 100-kilometer cycling race around the island in a blistering time of 3:20:22.62, breaking his own record of 2:30:33 during the inaugural "Hell" in 2007.

Torgeson was in Seventh Heaven after surviving the second "Hell" as the event was a fitting farewell race for a rider who improved his biking skills on Saipan.

"I did biking in the mainland,

but it is on Saipan where I flourished as a biker. I find biking easier than running because of the weather here and the courses present great challenges," Torgeson said.

Torgeson may find it hard to run, but when you look how he competed in those long distance races, it seemed so easy for him to cross the finish line first.

Take last month's grueling Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Fun Run for example.

Torgeson completed the 4.2-mile race in a 34:20 seconds, eclipsing Stuart Smith's time of 36:46 in 2006.

He was not able to join the official Mt. Tapochao race in 2007,

Saipan Tribune.

"The tournaments are great motivational factors for them and for those who aspire to one day be in their shoes and compete in New Zealand, too," he added.

Minor, who is on her second trip to New Zealand, won two doubles crowns and had two finals appearances, while Miller and Jones prevailed in a couple of matches in their debuts there.

All three CNMI bets are part

course shooting a 41 on both nines for a gross 81.

Noriko Togawa recorded the lowest gross of the day with her 5-over par 77, but her net 74 was only good for fourth place. The 3-handicapper Togawa started slow with a 40

as he got a call from CHC. But he still ran from Lower Base to the highest peak on the island past 30 minutes after the race started and managed to finish ahead of half of the participants, a few more minutes behind his 2008 time.

A week before the Mt. Tapochao run, Torgeson and his reliable bike had been to the peak during the 3rd Annual Tough Love Mountain Bike. He finished the race from Micro Beach to Mt. Tapochao in 29:18, breaking the 32:03 mark set by Steve Smith in the inaugural race in 2006.

Then here comes the swimming part, which according to Torgeson is his Waterloo.

of the ITF Pacific Touring Team making the selection after their impressive showings in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

"The competitions in New Zealand give Thea, Christian, and Raffy the quality and quantity of games they need to improve their level of competence," Race said.

"When you play against players you haven't met before or haven't

on the front nine, but finished her game with an improved 1-over par 37 on the back.

Rounding off the Top 10 were Shiori Onoue (net 75), Yuko Togawa (76), Sachiko Adachi (77), Lourdes Kim (78), Chin Lin Wang (79), and Margaret

Torgeson's speed in the water was tested in his debut in the 2008 XTERRA Saipan Championships.

He timed in at 25:12 in the 1.5-kilometer swim and was still in the Top 20 of more than 60 swimmers who plunged into the cold water of Micro Beach. Torgeson logged a total time of 3:17:11 to become the top amateur finisher in XTERRA's Crown Jewel.

He was fifth overall behind triathlon pros Andrew Noble of Australia, Jim Vance of the U.S., Japan's Takashiro Ogasawara, and Switzerland's Renata Bucher.

Not bad for an athlete who competed in his first triathlon

heard off, it puts you in a position to give your best game, as you are challenged to show you have what it takes to be in that tournament," the CNMI coach said. "Plus, in a tournament, which has as many as 128 players in a draw, you are expose to players with different styles of play and that's very helpful in improving your own game."

Race added he was surprised, but proud that Thea and the ITF

Tenorio (80).

Other participants in last week's tournament were Sheryl Jones (82), Matilde Hocog (82), Kimiko Abe (83), Xiao Wang (84), Ukita Terue (84), and Seo Kyung Ran (85).

CWGA was established last

## YOUTH

From Page 36

themselves in these tournaments. Their last stop will be in Auckland.

"It's unprecedented. Having three players invited to play in New Zealand and played against the host's bets and Australian players," Race said in a telephone interview with the

## SEMAN

From Page 36

Lorraine Babauta, a 10-handicapper, completed the Top 3 with her consistent performance at the Kagman



# 2008 Loyola Sports Yearend Tennis Tournament



Participants of the 2008 Loyola Sports Yearend Tennis Tournament pose for a group photo at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The junior doubles Level 1 Top 4 finishers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Peter Loyola with the Top 4 finishers in the men's 3.0 singles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tournament organizer Peter Loyola, left, poses with women's singles 3.0 Top 4 finishers, Ling Lihua, Maru Villanueva, Flor Jones, and Vicky Isuka.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Level 2 juniors doubles winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Top 4 placers in the men's 4.0 singles pose with Fiesta instructor Peter Loyola, left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Maru Villanueva prepares to return the ball to Ling Lihua.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ling Lihua goes for a double-handed backhand during her finals match against Maru Villanueva.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Yuri Hatamata has her eyes set on the ball during her title match against Lydia Tan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Lydia Tan chases down the ball.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO





## Garnett, Celtics top Hawks for 16th straight win



Garnett scored 10 of his 18 points in the final quarter, and Atlanta's Joe Johnson missed a late free throw that would have tied it, helping the Celtics beat the Hawks 88-85 on Wednesday night for their 16th straight victory. **32**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

## DCCA lone unbeaten team in softball league

Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs won the battle of undefeated teams in the men's division of the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League.



34

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

36 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2008

## Torgeson to bid Saipan adieu

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Eli Torgeson is ending his short stay in the CNMI, but he will be bringing a long list of triumphs from his brief love affair with the sports community when he leaves Saipan this Saturday.

The Commonwealth Health Center anesthesiologist is moving back to New Mexico after having been a familiar fixture in CNMI sports events for only a year and four months.



He came to Saipan in August last year and after winning the 2nd Annual Banzai Memorial Half Marathon in record-breaking fashion finishing the 19-mile trail course in one hour, 18 minutes, .04 seconds and shattering Yoshi Suzuki's mark (1:30.10) in the inaugural race, Torgeson started to become a household name in running and biking events.

Records from various events fell too when the former Connecticut resident began joining one event after another.

The latest was during the

See **TORGESON** on Page 34

Eli Torgeson makes a turn at Banzai Cliff during the 2nd Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle, his farewell race on Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



## 'Youth netters' NZ stint unprecedented

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



CNMI coach Jeff Race called the CNMI junior netters' stint in New Zealand tournaments one of the greatest things that happened in the Commonwealth's junior tennis program.

Thea Minor, Christian Miller, and Rafael Jones left early this month to compete in three tournaments in New Zealand. Two tournaments—in Waikato and Poverty Bay—had already concluded and the three CNMI netters made good account of

See **YOUTH** on Page 34



Jones



Minor



Miller

## Seman wins SWGA December tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Bennett Seman bested 15 other female golfers to win the December edition of the CNMI Women's Golf Association Monthly Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort Saturday.

Seman carded a net 69 for a two-stroke victory over Aya Matsumoto. The 30-handicapper Seman shot a 48 and 51 on the front and back nines for a gross 99.

Matsumoto has a 15 handicap and settled for second after firing a net 71. She tallied a 45 on the front nine and improved her game on the back with a 41.

See **SEMAN** on Page 34



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Women's Golf Association pose for a group photo after their December tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort Saturday.

## OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2.



## Don't quote me

“Tim Tebow doesn't sleep. He waits.”—common knowledge

“Doctors and scientists said that breaking the four-minute mile was impossible, that one would die in the attempt. Thus, when I got up from the track after collapsing at the finish line, I figured I was dead.”—Roger Bannister after becoming the first person to break the four-minute mile

“They pounded us. I wasn't even out there and I feel like I was run over by a truck.”—Tampa Chamberlain coach Billy Turner after Lakeland destroyed them in Florida high school football playoffs.

“So I'm ugly. So what? I never saw anyone hit with his face.”—Yogi Berra

“Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter.”—Satchel Paige

“You guys don't know the difference between a football and a bunch of bananas.”—Tampa Bay Buccaneer coach John McKay to journalists after another loss in their winless 1976 season. The following week after a media member dropped off a case of bananas at his door, he said, “You guys don't know the difference between a football and a Mercedes Benz.”

“But the real tragedy was that 15 of them hadn't been colored yet.”—Steve Spurrier after telling Gator fans that a fire in Auburn's football dorm had destroyed 20 books

“I think Little League is wonderful. It keeps the kids out of the house.”—Yogi Berra

“Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching.”—Satchel Paige

“One knee equals two feet.”—John Madden explaining football rules

“They're great in every phase of the game. Their offense is better than ours, their defense is better than ours, their special teams is better than ours, their halftime show was great and after the game I bet they wash their uniforms better than we do.”—Tampa Hillsboro coach Rick Rodriguez after getting crushed by Lakeland in the Florida high school football playoffs

“I never threw an illegal pitch. The trouble is, once in a while I toss a pitch that ain't never been seen by this generation.”—Satchel Paige

“Yeah, I was in the show. I was in the show for 21 days once—the 21 greatest days of my life. You know, you never handle your luggage in the show, somebody else carries your bags. It was great. You hit white balls for batting practice, the ballparks are like cathedrals, the hotels all have room service, and the women all have long legs and brains.”—Crash Davis in “Bull Durham”

“You know we just don't recognize the most significant moments of our lives while they're happening. Back then I thought, well, there'll be other days. I didn't realize that that was the only day.”—Moonlight Graham in “Field of Dreams”

“If the world was perfect, it wouldn't be.”—Yogi Berra perfectly spoken